

City of Dubuque CITY NEWS

— September/October 2023 —

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LET'S BE SOCIAL!



www.cityofdubuque.org

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www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme

ATTENTION MONDAY CUSTOMERS

Due to Labor Day, your
trash and recycling will
be collected on

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

Moody's Upgrades City of Dubuque's Bond Ratings

Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the City of Dubuque's issuer rating and outstanding general obligation unlimited tax bonds from Aa3 to Aa2, the third-highest rating possible. The improved rating will assist the City in securing the best terms for financial products like loans, which can provide substantial savings for the City and taxpayers.

"The city serves as a regional economic center and its regional economic growth rate has outpaced the nation over the past five years."

- Moody's Investors Service

According to Moody's, the issuer rating was upgraded to Aa2 because "the City has strong financial operations and ample revenue-raising flexibility, which has resulted in steadily improved available fund balance and cash. The city serves as a regional

economic center and its regional economic growth rate has outpaced the nation over the past five years. The city's local economy is likely to remain strong because of its mix of commercial and industrial industries, stable population, and steady tax base growth."

Moody's subsequent credit analysis of the City of Dubuque states, **"The City's healthy financial operations, with strong reserves, have resulted in steady improvement in available fund balance and cash ratios."**

Moody's ratings range on a scale from Aaa (highest) to C (lowest), with 19 different designations in between.

Moody's also upgraded the City's outstanding moral obligation Sales Tax Increment Revenue Bonds (Annual Appropriation Property Tax-Supported), Senior Bond Series 2015A, from A2 to A1, the fifth-highest rating.

Avelo Air Announces Direct Flights from Dubuque to Las Vegas



Avelo Airlines is expanding its service from Dubuque Regional Airport (DBQ) with nonstop flights to Las Vegas. The new flight is in addition to the nonstop Avelo flight between DBQ and Orlando International Airport (MCO) that began in March 2023.

Avelo's twice-weekly nonstop service between DBQ and Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) in Las Vegas begins on September 13. As with the Orlando flight, Avelo will operate the Las Vegas flight on

Wednesdays and Saturdays utilizing Boeing Next Generation (NG) 737 aircraft.

According to Avelo Airlines Chairman and CEO Andrew Levy, "We have been very encouraged by the initial response to Avelo's arrival at DBQ and believe Las Vegas will be an equally popular addition."

BOOK A FLIGHT
www.aveloair.com

JOIN A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!



Neighborhood associations are formed by people who live near each other and want to come together to improve neighborhood amenities, organize activities, and take action to make their neighborhood an even better place to live.

Find out if your neighborhood already has an association or start your own!

www.cityofdubuque.org/neighborhoodsupport
563-564-5644

Low & Moderate Income Owned Business Grant Program

The City's low and moderate income grant program is designed to assist eligible business owners with qualifying expenses while also helping the business owner develop strategies for continued success. Business owners can qualify for up to \$5,000 for eligible expenses, including but not limited to: rent, utilities, signage, marketing, and employee salaries (not the owner).

Community Development Block Grant funds are used to support the program. The City partners with Fountain of Youth to administer the grant and conduct an eight-week personal and professional development program, which is a requirement for the business owner.

Applications will be accepted starting at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 15, closing on Sept. 15 at 4 p.m., and will be reviewed for eligibility in order of submittal of a complete application.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

www.cityofdubuque.org/LMIgrant or
call 563-564-5686 with questions.

Sustainable Dubuque Grant Applications Due September 15

Sustainable Dubuque Community Grant applications are being accepted until September 15. Grants for up to \$2,500 are available to assist non-profits, businesses, clubs, organizations, and groups of passionate residents in implementing their ideas to make Dubuque a more sustainable place and to support community leadership in the Sustainable Dubuque initiative.

Grants may be awarded to any group or individuals to implement a project that helps to achieve the Sustainable Dubuque vision and includes a component of community education and/or engagement.

We encourage new groups or individuals to use this funding! Review the grant guidelines, application form, and scoring rubric at www.cityofdubuque.org/sustainability or call 563.690.6038.

Fall 2023 City Life Offered in Spanish

The Fall 2023 session of City Life will be offered in Spanish to better serve Dubuque residents whose primary language is Spanish.

City Life is held twice per year and is a program to give residents an opportunity to learn more about City operations and services through presentations, tours, and conversations with City staff.

City Life consists of six in-person sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (Sept. 26, 28, Oct. 3, 5, 10, 12) from 6-9 p.m. Dinner is provided and accommodations can be made. Apply by Sept. 15 at www.cityofdubuque.org/citylife or call 563-564-5644.



CITY OF DUBUQUE



Age in place

GRANT PROGRAM



Grants are available for residents age 62 and older to modify their homes so they can age at home safely.

Examples of these home modifications include installing grab bars, replacing doorknobs with lever style handles, installing handrails, repairing flooring and transitions to remove trip hazards, tub cut-out conversions, and more. Participants must be income-qualified.

Scan the QR code to fill out an interest form and City staff will follow up with you!



THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

www.cityofdubuque.org/ageinplace
or 563-589-1724



A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The City of Dubuque mission statement, set by the Mayor and City Council, states, "Dubuque city government is progressive and financially sound with residents receiving value for their tax dollars and achieving goals through partnerships." Several recent accomplishments and acknowledgments have affirmed the Mayor and City Council's commitment to sound fiscal management. As a community, we are all fortunate to have Jennifer Larson as the City's Chief Financial Officer.

As detailed on the cover of this newsletter, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the City of Dubuque's issuer rating and outstanding general obligation unlimited tax bonds in July from Aa3 to Aa2, the third-highest rating possible. Getting an upgrade of the bond rating puts the City of Dubuque in exclusive company. This is a significant achievement and will be extremely beneficial in securing low interest rates and other favorable terms should the City need to bond or borrow funds for future projects.

Also in July, the results of the City's Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Statement Audit were received. This is an annual process required by Iowa State Code and is conducted by auditors who are in no way affiliated with the City in order to ensure complete objectivity and professionalism. The auditors' opinion on the City's FY2022 financial statements was "unmodified," which is the highest level of assurance auditors can provide over financial statements and is sometimes referred to as a "clean" audit.

In late June, the City of Dubuque was awarded the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States & Canada's 2023 Investment Policy Certificate of Excellence Award for the City's comprehensive investment policy. This is the second time the City received this recognition. The Certificate of Excellence demonstrates the City's commitment to maintaining professional standards established to ensure prudent management of public funds based on 16 policy components including: delegation of authority, ethics and conflict of interest, authorized financial institutions, safekeeping/custody, diversification, internal controls, performance standards, and much more. Many thanks to the members of the City Council-appointed City of Dubuque Investment Oversight Committee.

For additional context, Dubuque has the lowest city property tax rate of the 11 cities in Iowa with populations over 50,000 and the City is currently utilizing 41% of its statutory debt limit, the fifth lowest among those 11 other cities. It is also important to understand that the City maintains a general fund reserve, or working balance, to allow for unforeseen expenses that may occur. The goal is to have at least a 20% reserve and in this year the City will have nearly 42% (\$29.7 million). Through last year's five-year capital improvement budget, the City Council chose to bring the level of general fund reserves down to 25% over the next five-year period to meet federal expenditure requirements and to implement high-priority projects across the community.

The Mayor and City Council's fiscal management has the City of Dubuque in an excellent position to support continued investment in the people, businesses, and organizations that are making a difference in our community, and continued investment in the infrastructure that must exist for Dubuque to continue to thrive.

2023 Water Quality Reports Available

The City of Dubuque Water Department has published the annual water quality reports for the Dubuque water supply. The drinking water met all state and federal water quality requirements and had no drinking water violations in 2022.



The complete report is available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/2023waterquality and printed copies are available by request.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.cityofdubuque.org/water or
call 563-589-4291

Leisure Services Family Scholarship Program

The Leisure Services Family Scholarship Program offers up to 200 low-income Dubuque families (two or more related people residing at the same address within city limits) a \$125 scholarship with credits to be used for:

- full price recreation classes
- swim fees: lessons, registrations, etc. (not valid for daily admissions)
- pavilion rental or swimming pool rental
- Eagle Point Park season pass (purchased at Leisure Services)
- Pet Park season pass

Those who qualify for a Leisure Services Family Scholarship will automatically qualify for the Creative Adventure Lab scholarship program which includes a complimentary one-year Family Play Membership (\$180 value). With a Family Play Membership, you receive complimentary admission to their Play Labs and the ability to borrow toys from The Toy Box.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation or
call 563-589-4263



New Faces & Retirements

New City Employees

Dustin Allen	Police
Laura Bendorf	Finance
Coral Dannatt	Emergency Communications
Brian Demoss	Finance
Haley Francke	Recreation
Brian Gross	Transit
Ashley Hahnbaum	Police
Brenda Holmes	Transit
Gail Huston	Transit
Kyle McCombs	Water
Antonio Mouzon	Multicultural Family Center
Vickie Owens	City Manager's Office
Colleen Shabunas	Information Services
Bonnie Spurling	Arts and Culture
Robert Wegmann	Parks
Stacy Zimmerman	Library

Recent City Retirees

Gary Blosch	Housing & Community Development
Karin Spisak	Airport
Brant Schueller	Water

Residents and Businesses Invited to Transform Parking Spaces into Miniature Parks

The City of Dubuque Sustainability Office is partnering with Dubuque Main Street to hold the first Park(ing) Day in Dubuque.

Residents and businesses are invited to participate by transforming designated parking spaces into temporary "parklets" and by visiting the parks during the event. The event will be held on Friday, Sept. 15, and Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the following locations: Main St. from Fifth St. to 11th St., Central Ave. from 14th St. to 19th St., and Washington St. from Ninth St. to 11th St.

Park(ing) Day is an event held annually on the third weekend in September in cities around the world to encourage people to reimagine streets and greenspace in their communities.

REGISTER FOR A PARK(ING) DAY MINIATURE PARK

www.sustainabledubuque.org/parking-day or call 563-690-6051

Calendar

September

- 4 City offices closed for Labor Day (Trash and recycling collection on Saturday, Sept. 2)
- 5 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 15-16 Park(ing) Day, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Details at www.sustainabledubuque.org/parking-day
- 18 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

October

- 2 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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 and ImOn channel 5), 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.

City Implements New Utility Billing System

The City has transitioned to a new utility billing system, and beginning with the August billing cycle, customers will notice a new look to their utility bills, whether they receive them in the mail or electronically.

Customers who pay online through the WaterSmart system must now pay through the new online customer portal. **Current WaterSmart customers must create a new login for the new customer portal. Customers currently on autopay will need to stop autopay in WaterSmart and set it up again in the new system.** An account number AND a new customer ID are needed to create a login in the new system. Both numbers are present on the customer's August/September utility bill.

Customers may wish to set up ACH (Automatic Clearing House) payments for monthly utility bills and can do so by visiting www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling. ACH payments automatically withdraw from the customer's bank account each month and don't require logging into the customer portal.

CREATE AN ACCOUNT AND PAY ONLINE

www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling or call 563-589-4144 with questions.

AmeriCorps Members are
**CHANGING
the
WORLD**

**AND
WE'RE
HIRING**



**CHECK OUT JUST A FEW OF OUR 2023-2024
SCHOOL YEAR OPPORTUNITIES!**

- Teen Creativity Specialist
- Teen Education Specialist
- Youth Literacy Specialist
- Social Emotional Learning Intervention Specialist
- Youth Services & Resources Specialist



LEARN MORE + APPLY
cityofdubuque.org/ameriCorps