

City of Dubuque CITY NEWS

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

Grant Programs Available for Safe & Healthy Homes

Grants for Lead Hazard Mitigation

Dubuque residents may qualify for up to \$25,000 in grant funding to help remove lead hazards from their homes.

As part of the City's Lead and Healthy Homes Program, grant funding is available to assist with lead hazard removal and other associated costs. More than 1,300 homes have already been made lead-safe since the program began in 1997.

Eligibility for the grants is partially determined by the age of the home. Homes built prior to 1978 may qualify for up to \$20,000 for lead remediation plus an additional \$5,000 to address other household hazards. Homes built in 1978 or later are eligible for up to \$10,000 to create a healthier home.

Residents can submit an interest form online and City staff will follow up to answer any additional questions and assist with the application process.

Submit an Interest Form: www.cityofdubuque.org/healthyhomes or call 563.589.1724

Home Modifications Assistance

Low-income Dubuque residents, age 62 and older, are eligible for grants to modify their homes so they can age at home safely rather than move to a nursing home or another assisted care facility. Inspections, supplies, and modifications are all included in the grant.

Examples of home modifications include:

- Installing grab bars in a bathroom.
- Replacing doorknobs with lever style handles.
- Installing hand rails on steps to enter/exit the home.
- Repairing flooring and transitions to remove trip hazards.
- Moving switches and outlets where they are more accessible.
- Converting a bathtub to a step-in shower.

Submit an Interest Form:

www.cityofdubuque.org/ageinplace
or call 563.589.1724

Energy Assistance Programs

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is a federally funded program designed to assist low-income families meet the cost of home heating by providing a one-time payment to the heating utility. Assistance levels depend on income, family size, type of fuel used to heat the home, and other factors.

The **Energy Crisis Program** helps low-income families get utility services turned back on or fix a furnace.

Details at www.hacap.org/energy
or call 563-556-5130

Muehring Named Water & Resource Recovery Center Director



City Manager Mike Van Milligen has named Deron Muehring, a civil engineer in the City's engineering department with 25 years of experience in the field of sewer collection systems and wastewater management, as the new director of Dubuque's Water and Resource Recovery Center (WRRRC).

As WRRRC Director, Muehring is responsible for the operation of Dubuque's wastewater treatment facility on Julien Dubuque Drive as well as its associated lift stations throughout the community and the facility's environmental monitoring laboratory. The position also proposes and enforces ordinances and regulations regarding the operation of the WRRRC as well as the chemical, biological, and bacterial analysis and sampling services for other City, partner agencies, and private sector activities.

Muehring has worked in the City of Dubuque Engineering Department since 1998 as Water Resource Engineer and has a long history of managing successful projects with the City, most notably playing a critical role in the implementation of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. He also has extensive experience managing the City's sanitary sewer system and has assisted in planning the WRRRC's capital improvement projects.

Muehring is a civil engineer with a master of science degree in civil and environmental engineering from Marquette University and a bachelor's degree in physics from St. Cloud University. He is a member of the Water Environment Federation, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Public Works Association, and the International Erosion Control Association.

Muehring replaces Willie O'Brien who managed the facility since 2016. O'Brien will transition to the role of WRRRC plant manager and will focus on facility operations.

RECYCLE UNWANTED HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Drop-off locations to recycle unwanted holiday lights through Jan. 13:

- City of Dubuque Municipal Services Center - 925 Kerper Court (next to the public entrance)
- Carnegie-Stout Public Library - 360 W. 11th St.
- Dubuque County Library, Asbury Branch - 5290 Grand Meadow Dr.
- Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) by appointment only - 101 Airborne Road. Call (563) 557-8220



Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival & Competition - Feb. 8 - 11, 2024

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. 8, through noon on Sunday, Feb. 11, in Washington Park with teams competing to secure the state title and an opportunity to move onto the 2024 U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition in Lake Geneva, Wis., in 2025.

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. 11, 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 outdoors and inside DuMA.

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

Volunteer DBQ

NEW YEAR, VOLUNTEER!



Make volunteering one of your new year's resolutions!

In addition to the joy of giving back to the community, volunteering offers health benefits including reduced stress and boosting one's mood. Studies also show that volunteers experience lower rates of depression. Social connections developed through volunteering contribute to a strong support system, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness. Volunteering can also have career and employment benefits, including gaining experience and developing skills.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities throughout the community at www.volunteerdubq.com or by calling 563-690-6171.

New Ambulance for Dubuque Fire Department

A brand new ambulance was recently placed into service by the Dubuque Fire Department. The new ambulance is housed at Fire Station #4, 1697 University Ave. It joins two others stationed at Fire Headquarters, 11 W. 9th St., and Fire Station #2, 2180 John F. Kennedy Rd.

The ambulance features a door-forward design that allows entry to the patient area from the front part of the compartment, rather than the middle. This design more efficiently utilizes the space in the ambulance, making it seem less cramped. This is the first DFD ambulance to utilize this configuration, which is gaining popularity across the country.

"We've placed an emphasis on upgrades in configuration and design to enhance safety and prioritize efficiencies for our team members," says Dubuque Fire Chief Amy Scheller. "We are both excited and thankful to have this new resource."

The department increased its number of ambulances to three in October 2022.



Approximately 80% of the department's calls for service are for emergency medical services. The third ambulance is expected to help the department advance towards its goal of responding to nearly all of its calls within six minutes.

The department has ordered two additional new ambulance units that it hopes to receive next spring.

The three active ambulances are a part of the nearly 30 vehicles that make up the full Dubuque Fire Department vehicle fleet.



Picture yourself with the
**BEST SUMMER
JOB EVER!**

**Don't let the cold and snow get you down,
starting thinking about summer - NOW!**

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, visit the City's website to learn more about the seasonal opportunities available.

Find more at:

www.cityofdubuque.org/seasonaljobs
or call 563.589.4263



The DBQ Shovel Crew is a program that pairs volunteers with residents who are not physically able to remove snow and ice from their city sidewalk and do 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

Winter Food Scraps 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 Public Works Department at 563-589-4250. Those who subscribe to a City-issued food scrap cart will have collections made weekly on their normal collection day, no appointment needed.

Merry Mulch: Jan. 2 - 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.

For set out instructions and more on what you should "know before you throw", visit www.cityofdubuque.org/curbcollection.

New Faces & Retirements

New City Employees

Ariona Albert	Recreation
SerJon Bennett	Police
Richard Bingham	Public Works
Dale Carroll	Recreation
Braden Daniels	Office of Shared Prosperity
Jeffrey Dozbaba	Housing & Comm Development
Emily Lemire	Recreation
Cathy Recker	Library
Nicholas Schemmel	Public Works
Pamela Swartz	Fire
Grant Vandevoorde	Airport

New Board/Commission Members

Equity & Human Rights Commission

Daniel Garza
Phillip Heim

Recent City Retirees

James Lembke Police
Steven Olson Police

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.



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.

To receive help through VITA or to volunteer:
www.hacap.org/taxes or call 563-513-8829

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

Calendar

January

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

February

- 5 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 8-11 Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival, Washington Park
- 19 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.) 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.

Citizen's Police Academy Coming Soon

The Dubuque Police Department will hold the 27th annual Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) on Thursday evenings from Feb. 1 to April 4, from 6 - 9:30 p.m. 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. 12, 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.