

City of Dubuque

CITY NEWS

September/October 2024

Inside This Issue

2 | Join a Neighborhood Association

Sustainable Dubuque Community Grants Available

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

3 | A Message from the City Manager: Dubuque is Iowa's 2024 Community of Character!

2024 Water Quality Reports

Branching Out Dubuque

4 | New Faces & Retirements

Events Calendar

Seeking Public Input: CDBG Community Survey

Park(ing) Day in Dubuque

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

Attention Monday Customers!

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

**Saturday,
August 31**



Funding Available Through **Neighborhood Support Grant Program**

The City of Dubuque Office of Shared Prosperity and Neighborhood Support is accepting applications for the expanded Neighborhood Support Grant Program. Grants applications are welcomed on an ongoing basis and awards have been increased to a maximum of \$2,500 each. Previous grants had been capped at \$750.

The Neighborhood Support Grant assists neighborhood associations and community groups with improving the quality of life for residents. Grants are available for eligible events, projects, and other community initiatives that enhance livability and strengthen neighborhood



pride. Examples include block parties, bike racks, a neighborhood newsletter, beautification efforts, youth and family programs, and community gardens.

Applications are reviewed on the first of every month throughout the calendar year. Application materials are available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/neighborhoodsupport. For additional information, contact the Office of Shared Prosperity & Neighborhood Support at 563-589-4326.

Mouzon Named Dubuque's Community Impact Director



Dubuque City Manager Mike Van Milligen has appointed Antonio Mouzon as community impact director for the City of Dubuque. Antonio has served as director of the Dubuque Multicultural Family Center since June of 2023 and began the new role in early July.

Previously, the City's community impact activities and staff, including the AmeriCorps Program, community outreach and impact programs, equitable fine and fee reform, and prevention and diversion services, were a division of the City's leisure services department. The new department includes the community impact staff and activities as well as the staff and activities of the Multicultural Family Center.

Antonio holds a bachelor's degree in health, wellness, and recreation and a master's in communications from the University of Dubuque. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in higher education, with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif.



HEY, NEIGHBOR!

Join or Start a Neighborhood Association

Joining or starting a neighborhood association and getting to know your neighbors through meetings, projects, and events offers many benefits:

- You make friends. Seeing familiar faces on your walk and chatting with a neighbor over the fence creates happiness and long-lasting friendships.
- You have someone who has your back. Your neighbor may be able to lend you a tool for your yardwork, and you may be able to bring them some vegetables harvested from your garden.
- You get access to information and resources. You can find out what's happening on your street and in your city.
- Many hands make light work when planning a block party or cleaning up trash in your neighborhood. Neighbors can have a shared interest in an idea you have to make the neighborhood even better.

Wondering if there's already an association nearby?

Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/neighborhoodsupport to view a map of current/active neighborhood associations.

Interested in starting an association?

Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/neighborhoodsupport to fill out an interest form and view the neighborhood association toolkit!



Sustainable Dubuque Grant Applications Due Sept. 15

Sustainable Dubuque Community Grant applications are being accepted until Sept. 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.



Review the grant guidelines, application form, and scoring rubric at www.cityofdubuque.org/sustainability or call 563-690-6038.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week OCTOBER 20-26, 2024

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week highlights the ways parents, caregivers, and communities can reduce children's exposure to lead and prevent its harmful health effects.

Lead is an invisible threat. If your house or apartment was built before 1978, you may have lead paint in your home. Ask yourself:

- Is the air in your home clean?
- Do your children have breathing problems, like asthma?
- Is there dampness in your home?
- Is there chipping or peeling paint?

Lead can cause learning disabilities, hearing loss, attention deficit disorder, and behavioral problems. High blood lead levels are associated with lower IQ and a decline of about 15% in reading and math scores.

Have your child's blood lead level tested. See your doctor or the Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), located at 660 Iowa St.

The City's Housing and Community Development Department provides financial assistance for renters and

homeowners to create a safer and healthier home.

Program participants may qualify for up to \$30,000 for lead remediation plus an additional \$5,000 for other household hazards, such as moisture intrusion, allergens, contaminants, pests, carbon monoxide, radon, fall protection, security, and more.

If you think you may have lead paint, or other hazards throughout your home, submit an interest form at www.cityofdubuque.org/healthyyhomes or call 563-589-1724.





A Message from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University annually recognizes Iowa individuals, organizations, and communities that show the center's six pillars of CHARACTER COUNTS®: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. In June, the Ray Center announced that Dubuque is the 2024 Iowa Community of Character!

When the award was announced, Scott Raecker, executive director of the Ray Center, said, "Dubuque is an inspiring example of how communities can work together to promote positive values and make a meaningful impact on the lives of all their residents."

The entire community should be proud of this recognition because it acknowledges Dubuque's character, which is something all residents play a role in defining. I see Dubuque's character demonstrated on almost a daily basis through the commitment of City of Dubuque employees providing critical services to residents. It's also evident in the passion of residents working together to address challenges or to support issues important to them. I also see it in the actions of the Mayor and City Council and the decisions they make about the future of the community. Dubuque's business and non-profit community also contribute significantly to the community's character in how they support the city's quality of life and economy.

Dubuque was nominated by Robert Palmer, the former General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs with the Iowa League of Cities. He said, "Dubuque is a great city with a lot of heart and city officials that care. The community has a story of population loss followed by stabilization, recovery, and continued growth. The city officials are passionate about the wide variety of residents they have and what it takes to meet their needs. Language barriers, employment, and embracing cultural identity are challenges that has Dubuque faced and overcame gracefully."

*Congratulations, Dubuque,
on being the 2024 Iowa
Community of Character!*

I believe the six pillars of CHARACTER COUNTS complement the City of Dubuque's five pillars guiding the City's efforts to create an Equitable Community (and Organization) of Choice: resiliency, sustainability, equity, transparency, and compassion.



2024 Water Quality Report Available

The City of Dubuque Water Department has published the annual water quality report for the Dubuque water supply. The drinking water met all state and federal water quality requirements and had no drinking water violations in 2023.

The report is available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/2024waterquality. Printed copies are available by request by calling 563-589-4291.



The City, in partnership with Dubuque Trees Forever, was awarded a U.S. Forest Service grant for \$1.5 million to be used to plant thousands of trees over the next five years.

Residents interested in receiving one or more free trees are invited to fill out an interest form at www.cityofdubuque.org/branchingout or call 563-690-6038.

Also available online is an interactive map where residents can enter their address to determine if their property is located in one of the four tree-planting eligibility areas.



ONLINE MAP!

New Faces & Retirements

New City Employees

David Nauman	Public Works
Jacob Schumacher	Public Works
Reanna McCallister	Emergency Communications
Elizabeth Jentz	Parking
Bernadette Stark	Public Works
Cade Allgeier	Airport
Katrina Truitt	Airport
Evan Gordon	Parks
Kathleen Oltmanns	Library
Charles Beckman	Engineering
Megan Marty	Public Works
Michelle Kim	Sustainability
Kevin Ansel	Public Works
Thea Dement	Transit
Jessica Rooney	Transit
Jennifer Raber	Public Works
Mark Knockel	Transit

New Board/Commission Members

Franco Menchaca	Arts and Cultural Affairs
Pamela Birch	Civic Center
Rick Baumhover	Equity and Human Rights
Nikkole Nutter	Equity and Human Rights
January Tylor	Housing Appeals and Mediation
Aaron Miller	Long Range Planning

Recent City Retirees

David Haupert	Police
Paul Davis	Public Works

SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT!

CDBG Consolidated Plan Community Survey

Each year, the City of Dubuque receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are administered to City departments and non-profit agencies to assist persons of low- and moderate-income; support housing, economic development, neighborhoods, and public services; and meet urgent needs. The Housing and Community Development Department wants you to have a voice in how the City invests this money. Fill out the online survey or call 563-581-4403.

To fill out the CDBG Consolidated Plan community survey, scan the QR code or go to www.cityofdubuque.org/cdbgsurvey.



Calendar

September

2 City offices closed for Labor Day
(**Trash and recycling collection on Saturday, Aug. 31**)
3 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
16 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
20 2nd Annual Park(ing) Day in Dubuque, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

October

7 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
21 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.



2nd Annual Park(ing) Day in Dubuque

Friday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Main St.

The City's Sustainability Office is partnering with Dubuque Main Street for the 2nd Annual Park(ing) Day in Dubuque!

Park(ing) day is a global event where people across the world temporarily repurpose curbside parking spaces and convert them into public parks and social spaces to advocate for safer, greener, and more equitable streets for people. Join the fun and make plans to stop by the event or create your own Park(ing) space for Park(ing) Day! Plants, flowers, seating, music, art, games – be creative and bring your mini park vision to life!

Learn more at www.sustainabledubuque.org/parking-day.



City News is produced by the City of Dubuque Public Information Office. Comments are welcome at publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org or 563-589-4151.