

City of Dubuque

CITY NEWS

March/April 2025

Inside This Issue

2 | Battery Recycling Locations

Sustainable Dubuque Grant Applications Due March 15

City Awarded \$5.2 million to Continue Lead Paint Removal Efforts

Branching Out Dubuque: Free Trees Available

3 | A Message from the City Manager: Partnerships

FY2026 Budget Public Meetings: Provide Your Input!

4 | New Faces & Retirements

Events Calendar

Youth Climate Action Fund: Call for Applications

Yard Waste/Food Scrap Collection Resumes March 31

Let's Be Social!



Get news and info by email or text:
Check out all the options at
www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme

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



NOW HIRING SEASONAL POSITIONS

Summer jobs for ages 15 and up!

Now is the time to find your summer job! The City of Dubuque offers more than 250 summer and seasonal positions with the Recreation Division, Parks Division, City pools, Bunker Hill Golf Course, Port of Dubuque Marina, AmeriCorps, and Multicultural Family Center. A seasonal job with the City can be a great fit for many people:

- For high school students age 15 and up or college students on summer break, a seasonal job can provide on-the-job experience as well as the opportunity to make money.
- If you have little to no job experience, a summer job can help boost your resume for future employers.
- Seasonal jobs can also be a good way for retirees and other professionals or former professionals to earn extra income.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS INCLUDE:

- Lifeguard
- Playground leader
- Marina attendant
- Pool manager
- Pool cashier
- Pool laborer
- Concessions worker
- AmeriCorps member
- Bunker Hill clubhouse staff
- Groundskeeper
- Equipment operator
- Park ranger
- Forestry laborer
- Landscape crew member
- Park fee collector
- Tennis instructor



See job descriptions, hourly rates, and apply at www.cityofdubuque.org/seasonaljobs or scan the QR code.



TAKE CHARGE

WATT TO DO WITH BATTERIES

BATTERY RECYCLING

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency has placed special collection containers at the following locations to offer a convenient way to recycle batteries, tablets, phones, and cords.

- City of Dubuque Municipal Services Center, 925 Kerper Court
- Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 West 11th Street
- Dubuque County Library – Asbury Branch, 5290 Grand Meadow Drive

In addition to these locations, the Regional Collection Center located at the landfill accepts batteries and battery containing devices.

For more information, visit www.dmaswa.org/wastesearch or call 563-557-8220.



Free Trees Available!

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 check the eligibility area and fill out an interest form at www.cityofdubuque.org/branchingout or call 563-690-6038.

City Awarded Nearly \$5.2 Million to Continue Lead Paint Removal Efforts

Everyone deserves a safe and healthy home.

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department has awarded the City nearly \$5.2 million dollars to support the City's ongoing lead-based paint reduction program.

The Lead & Healthy Homes Program provides financial assistance, in the form of a three-year forgivable loan, to single-family and rental residential properties built before 1978. To be eligible, occupants must meet income guidelines and children under the age of six must reside at or visit the home. Properties that have previously participated in the program can still be eligible for additional grant funding.

The program addresses lead hazards and other environmental health and safety hazards, which may include moisture intrusion, allergens, contaminants, pests, carbon monoxide, radon, fall protection, security, and more.

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 and healthy? Do your children have breathing problems, like asthma? Is there chipping or peeling paint in your home?

Program participants may qualify for up to \$30,000 for lead remediation plus an additional \$5,000 for other household hazards.

If you think you may have lead paint, or other hazards throughout your home, submit an interest form at www.cityofdubuque.org/healthyhomes and City staff will follow up with you. For questions, call 563-589-1724.



Sustainable Dubuque Grant Applications Due March 15

Sustainable Dubuque Community Grant applications are being accepted until March 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.



A Message from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

Partnerships are not a new concept for Dubuque. "Planning, Partnerships and People" have been the hallmark of success in this community for decades and some say they are the "secret sauce" for Dubuque's progress.

The following quote from Mayor Brad Cavanagh's presentation at the December 13, 2024, announcement by the University of Dubuque that they are opening an 800-student new medical school in downtown Dubuque, the John and Alice Butler School of Osteopathic Medicine, illustrates the success that these partnerships have enabled:

"With the Field of Dreams project, Chaplain Schmitt Island redevelopment, over 2,400 new housing units being proposed, numerous industrial expansion projects, redevelopment of the Central Avenue corridor, major expansion projects proposed by the Dubuque Museum of Art, the Dubuque Community Y, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, the Historic Millwork District projects, three new hotels under construction, the recent announcement by University of Dubuque of a major expansion of their aviation program, and now this, our region is experiencing a major renaissance. When, in the 1980s, they asked, 'Will the last person to leave Dubuque please turn out the lights,' could they have envisioned this 40 years later?"

I am convinced Dubuque has taken partnerships to a new level and is reaching "escape velocity" thanks to the strength and diversity of a variety of collaborations formed to foster growth and enhance quality of life.

What do I mean by "escape velocity?" When a rocket is launched, a tremendous amount of fuel (energy) is needed during the liftoff stage. As the rocket continues to climb and gain speed, it eventually breaches Earth's atmosphere and is no longer affected by gravity – it has reached escape velocity and advanced to the next stage of the mission.

I believe Dubuque is approaching the critical point where the community will no longer be affected by "gravitational" forces and is instead in control of its own destiny and ready for its continued evolution as an equitable community of choice.

I whole heartedly agree with the statement Mayor Cavanagh made at a Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce event in December, when he said, "We are in the midst of a renaissance in the Tri-State region. We've got our foot on the gas, and we aren't looking back at this point."

Dubuque is experiencing a renaissance 40 years in the making, let's all go together on this awe-inspiring journey!

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Public Meetings

The City's annual budget public input meetings provide an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to learn more about the recommended budget and share their input. Meetings are held at City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building, 350 W. 6th Street. Public input is accepted after each department's presentation. Residents can also provide input at www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2026budget.

Schedule

The recommended budget materials will be available at www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2026budget in March, before budget meetings begin, and at the Reference Desk at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library at 360 W. 11th St. For more information, call 563-589-4398.

- **Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.**
Public hearing to establish maximum FY2026 Property Tax Levy
- **Monday, March 31, 6:30 p.m.**
FY2026 budget document presentation
- **Wednesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.**
City Manager's Office, City Council, City Attorney's Office, City Clerk, Public Information Office, Human Resources
- **Thursday, April 3, 6:30 p.m.**
Health Services, Library, Airport, Office of Shared Prosperity & Neighborhood Support, Office of Equity and Human Rights, Finance
- **Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.**
Housing & Community Development, Purchase of Services, Planning Services, Economic Development
- **Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.**
Parks, Recreation, Grand River Center, Ice Center, Five Flags Civic Center
- **Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.**
Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, Police, Fire
- **Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.**
Information Technology, Water, Water & Resource Recovery, Public Works
- **Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.**
Community Impact, Transportation Services, Engineering
- **Monday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.**
Public Hearing to Adopt FY2026 Budget

New Faces & Retirements

New City Employees

Jared Ostwinkle	Police
Scott Smith	Transit
Nathan Dunker	Airport
Kannon Still	Airport
Kyle Feckler	Airport
Roberto Colorado	Public Works
Hector Hernandez-Gutierrez	Information Technology

Recent Retirees

Deb Stephenson	Library
----------------	---------

New Board/Commission Members

Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission:

David Barba
Gail Chavenelle
Aaron Hefel

Equity and Human Rights Commission:

DeLano Cain-Watson

Youth Climate Action Microgrants

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Microgrants of \$1,000 - \$5,000 are available for youth ages 15-24 to design and oversee climate action initiatives. From mobilizing tree-planting or public education campaigns to launching recycling or waste reduction initiatives to participating in preparedness programs, projects can vary in scope and must align with Dubuque's 50% by 2030 Climate Action Plan. Written applications may be submitted online by Tuesday, March 4, or Friday, March 28. Following each deadline, a selection committee will review applications and choose microgrant recipients.



Ideas can also be presented in person at Earth Tank, a Shark Tank-style event on March 4. All projects presented will be considered for microgrant funding. In addition, two projects will receive a cash prize: one chosen as the audience favorite and another selected for best aligning with Dubuque's Climate Action Plan.

Learn more and apply at sustainabledubuque.org/ycaf or call 563-845-8591 to discuss your climate action idea!

Calendar

March

3	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
17	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
25	Public hearing to establish maximum FY2026 Property Tax Levy, 6:30 p.m.
31	FY2026 Budget Document Presentation, 6:30 p.m.

April

2	FY2026 Budget Public Hearing #1, 6:30 p.m.
3	FY2026 Budget Public Hearing #2, 6:30 p.m.
7	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
8	FY2026 Budget Public Hearing #3, 6:30 p.m.
9	FY2026 Budget Public Hearing #4, 6:30 p.m.
10	FY2026 Budget Public Hearing #5, 6:30 p.m.
21	City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
22	FY2026 Budget Public Hearing #6, 6:30 p.m.
24	FY2026 Budget Public Hearing #7, 6:30 p.m.
28	Final Hearing to Adopt FY2026 Budget, 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 ION 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.

Yard Waste/Food Scraps Collection Resumes March 31



Regular yard waste and food scraps collection for current subscribers starts Monday, March 31. Customers have the following options for curbside collection of yard waste and food scraps (these items can be combined):

- 64-gallon City-issued cart - \$10/month
- Annual Yard Waste Decal - \$40
- Single-use yellow stickers for cans, bags, or bundles - \$1.50 each (or sold on sheets of five for \$7.50) Sold at most discount and hardware stores in Dubuque

Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste for a complete list of retailers.

For questions or more information, call 563-589-4250 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste.