

CITYnews

VOL. 11 ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2013

Incentives Available for Newly Renovated Homes

The City of Dubuque is offering for sale several newly renovated and historically restored single-family homes in the Upper Bee Branch Creek area and two row houses in the Washington Neighborhood. Special purchase incentives to promote home ownership are available to qualified buyers. These homes are located within walking distance of grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, churches, and restaurants.

The Bee Branch Creek area homes are located in the 2200 and 2300 blocks Washington St. The east end of each of these properties is connected to the Bee Branch Creek Restoration project, which will feature amenities including a linear park with a walking trail, amphitheater, plazas, benches, lighting, and over 500 new trees. View details of these homes and available incentives at www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranchhomes.



Two Washington Neighborhood row houses, located at 1785 and 1787 Washington St., are also for sale. Each two-bedroom unit has been completely renovated and features 1,200 sq. ft. with full basements. These two-story units are priced at \$85,000, but incentives may allow qualified buyers to purchase for as little as \$45,100!

For more information, contact the City's Housing & Community Development

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Department at (563) 589-4239, e-mail kneyen@cityofdubuque.org, or stop in the department office at 350 W. Sixth St., Suite 312. §

THE CITY OF 
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Public Input Guiding South Port Redevelopment Plans

Graduate students from the University of Iowa's School of Urban and Regional Planning, in partnership with the City of Dubuque Planning Services and Economic Development Departments, have been gathering and reviewing public input over the past five months on redevelopment of the South Port of Dubuque.

The South Port consists of 33 acres of vacant and industrial waterfront property south of the Ice Harbor and adjacent to Dubuque's downtown. It includes the property between the Mississippi River and the railroad tracks on both the north and south sides of U.S. Highway 20 and the Julien Dubuque

Bridge. The 2002 Port of Dubuque Master Plan outlined a multi-phased redevelopment plan for the entire Port of Dubuque. Redevelopment of the South Port represents the final two phases of that plan and continues the major riverfront revitalization effort at the Port of Dubuque by reclaiming underutilized and brownfield property on the South Port for mixed-use development while balancing creative vision and market demand. For additional information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/southport or call the Planning Services Department at 563-589-4210.

The students will use the results of an

October 2012 public input meeting and feedback collected in January and February through an online survey to create multiple alternatives for redevelopment of the South Port. This information will be shared at a public event in March or April and the public will be asked to provide additional input. The date, time and location of the event will be publicized in advance online at www.cityofdubuque.org/southport. Interested residents may also call the Planning Services Department for details. The top alternatives chosen by the public, along with the students' evaluation, are expected to be recommended to the City Council for consideration in May 2013. §

Track Snow Plowing Progress Online

You can now track the progress of the City's snow and ice control operations following winter weather events. GPS technology installed on the snow removal equipment enables real-time updates to a public website accessible at www.cityofdubuque.org/snow. The website is updated during operations through an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system. Visit the webpage during or after the next winter weather event to view an interactive map that shows which and how recently streets have been plowed. You can use the zoom tool for a detailed view of specific areas. §



Fehsal Named Park Division Manager

Stephen Fehsal has been named the City's new park division manager. He is responsible for performing administrative, supervisory, and technical work in developing, planning, operating, constructing, and maintaining the more than 900 acres that make up the City's park system and related facilities and public properties.

Fehsal brings nearly 20 years of government experience in forestry and park maintenance. He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies with minors in policy, management, and outdoor recreation from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University. Fehsal came to Dubuque from Gardnerville, Nev., where he supervised and maintained operations and staff for parks and two public water systems within the Douglas County Parks and Recreation system. §

Fourth Annual Taste of the World Fundraiser

Experience entertainment, food, and activities from over 20 countries at the 4th Annual Taste of the World fundraiser benefitting the Multicultural Family Center on Saturday, March 16, at the Five Flags Arena, 405 Main St. The event will feature an opening ceremony at 11 a.m. and food samples and performances from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each or \$15 per family and can be purchased at the door the day of the event, or in advance by calling 563-582-3681 or emailing info@mfcdbq.org. §

Downtown Cleanup Project

Volunteers are needed for the annual Downtown Cleanup on Saturday, April 27, from 8 - 11:30 a.m. Dubuque Main Street organizes this effort to help clean up the entire 90-block downtown district. To register your group, or as an individual call Dubuque Main Street at 563-588-4400 or email christie@dubuquemainstreet.org. §

Avoid Sewer Charges for Outside Watering

As spring and warmer weather approach, so does the potential need for watering gardens and lawns, filling pools, and other outside water use. In homes where only one meter is installed, water and sewer fees are charged on all water used. A water-only meter can be installed in addition to the main meter to measure water that does not end up in the sanitary sewer system and sewer charges are not billed on this meter. Customers must purchase the water-only metering equipment and have it installed by a licensed plumber. Contact your plumber for purchasing options and, remember, a plumbing permit is required. A minimum monthly charge for this additional meter applies. Contact the Utility Billing department at 563-589-4144 or utilityb@cityofdubuque.org with any questions.

There is an alternative option for filling swimming pools within the city limits. The City of Dubuque Water Department will fill a pool as long as there is a fire hydrant within 500 feet of the pool. Call 563-589-4304 at least a day in advance to request this service. The cost is \$25 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours, and \$0.35 per 100 gallons plus tax. §

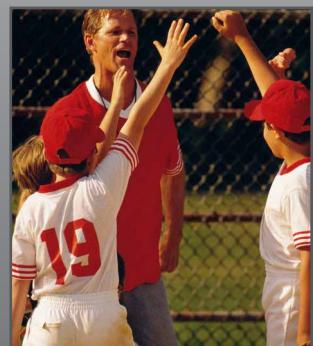
Leisure Services Summer Employment Opportunities

Looking for a great summer job?

City of Dubuque Leisure Services is seeking applicants for 8- and 12-week summer positions.

Employment opportunities are available for the following positions:

- Baseball and softball coaches
- Tennis instructors
- Playground leaders
- Art, music, dance, drama, and youth sport instructors*
- Swimming pool staff (lifeguards, instructors, laborers, cashiers)
- McAleece Recreation Area staff (concessions)
- Bunker Hill Golf Course staff (shop attendants, concessions)
- Laborers (golf course, softball fields, parks)



Job descriptions and applications are available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/employment. *Applications for instructors are due March 1, all others are due April 1, 2013. For additional information, call the Leisure Services Department at 563-589-4263.



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

RIVER CITY OF THE YEAR

Iowa Rivers Revival, a group that advocates for rivers, recently named Dubuque "River City of the Year" in recognition of the City Council and community's visionary efforts to revitalize its connections to the Mississippi River. Roz Lehman, executive director of Iowa Rivers Revival, said "Dubuque has accomplished a remarkable turnaround over the last couple decades and the river is right at the heart of it all. Dubuque has reconnected people to the river that inspired the town's settlement so long ago. Once again, the river is making Dubuque a very special place to visit and live."

Iowa Rivers Revival pointed to several key river-related projects, including: the America's River Project at the Port of Dubuque, Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, Dubuque Water Trail, Water & Resource Recovery Center, Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority, and Dubuque's bike and hike trail system.

2012 JOB GROWTH

According to Iowa Workforce Development, Dubuque County had a net gain of 1,600 jobs in 2012, 11.1% of all the net new jobs created in the state with just 3% of the state's population. Dubuque's job growth

rate in 2012 was 2.8%, significantly exceeding Des Moines' rate of 1.9%. In fact, Dubuque was the only Iowa metropolitan area with a job growth rate over 2% in 2012, the third consecutive year that Dubuque has led the state in private sector job growth.

These reports, our below state and national average unemployment rate, and the continuing investments and expansions of Dubuque businesses are encouraging. However, the recent announcement from QuadGraphics to cease operations at its Dubuque facility and the subsequent impact on those employees and families are a reminder that we must stay focused on making Dubuque a community where employers can thrive and find the workforce they need to do so.

FY2014 BUDGET

Throughout February, as this newsletter is printed and distributed, the City's budget for fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014) is being considered by the City Council and will be finalized and submitted to the State of Iowa by March 15.

My recommended budget, submitted to the City Council at their Feb. 4 meeting, included a recommended property tax

rate of \$11.0259 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, a 2.24% increase from the current Fiscal Year 2013 property tax rate of \$10.7848. The reasons necessitating this proposed increase include: decreased lease revenues from the Dubuque Racing Association; a 21.6% increase in health insurance costs for City employees; the State-mandated increases in the City's contribution to the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System going from 26.12% of an employee's wage to 30.12%, and increased City expenses related to the Federal Affordable Care Act.

The recommended budget also included a 17% sanitary sewer rate increase, a 9% water rate increase, a 9% refuse rate increase and no stormwater fee increase.

The City has several major infrastructure projects underway including: the Water and Resource Recovery Center, Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, the Southwest Arterial, the extension of City utilities to the Dubuque Regional Airport, and the development of a new industrial park off Highway 20 and Seippel Road.

Obviously, projects such as these and the progress they enable have a cost, but stagnation has a greater cost. The final budget adopted by the City Council may change as a result of discussion during the adoption process. Details of the recommended budget and the public meeting schedule publicized in the last issue of this newsletter are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2014budget. Printed copies are available at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library and the City Clerk's Office. §

City Expo Moving to September

City Expo is Dubuque's annual, family-friendly event designed to inform residents about city programs, services, and resources and give residents an additional opportunity to speak with City staff. City Expo is being moved from April to September and is undergoing a "makeover" to make the event more engaging and informative for all residents. Your input in this process would be greatly appreciated. Please share your ideas by visiting www.cityofdubuque.org/expo or by calling the Public Information Office at 563-589-4151. §

Rechargeable Battery and Cell Phone Recycling Drop-Off Sites

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency is partnering with Call2Recycle®, a product stewardship organization managing the only no-cost battery and cellphone collection program in North America, to offer convenient rechargeable battery drop-off locations in Dubuque and Delaware counties. After holiday purchases, many old batteries and cellphones are ready to be recycled. Major retailers such as Radio Shack, Staples, Best Buy, and Lowe's offer in-store collection. Along with these businesses, the DMASWA is sponsoring additional convenient drop-off locations including two in Dubuque at City Hall (50 W. 13th St.) and the Carnegie-Stout Public Library (360 W. 11th St.). Items may be dropped off during hours of operation only at both facilities. Acceptable items include cell phones and rechargeable batteries found in electronic products, such as laptop computers, tablets, digital cameras, cordless power tools, and two-way radios. For more information, visit www.dmaswa.org or contact the DMASWA Education Office at 563-588-7933. §

Yard Debris Collection Resumes April 1

Seasonal yard debris and food scrap collection for current subscribers starts Monday, April 1. For more information, call Public Works at 563-589-4250 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks. §

New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Billy Diejuste - Police

Teresa Drury - Housing & Community Development

Susanna Duggan - Fire

Stephen Fehsal - Park Division

Laura Hankes - Health Services

Adam Kahler - Fire

Corey Lugrain - Fire

Arthur Martin IV - Airport

Douglas Merkes - Fire

Hollie Ohnesorge - Housing & Community Development

Scott Peter - Parking

Alexis Ramirez - Police

Alexis Steger - Engineering

Retirements

Congratulations to the employees who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

Steve Kiebel - Leisure Services

John Leytem - Public Works

Randy Rick - Fire Department

John Walker - Fire Department



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Contact Information

The City of Dubuque welcomes comments and suggestions about your city government or news appearing in this newsletter. Please contact:

City Manager's Office
50 W. 13th Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864
(563) 589-4110 phone
(563) 589-4149 fax
cftygr@cityofdubuque.org



Editorial Information

City News is published by the Public Information Office and is inserted in the City of Dubuque utility bills six times per year. For the most up-to-date City news and events, visit www.cityofdubuque.org.

March

4	<u>City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
5	<u>Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room 1, City Hall Annex</u>
6	<u>Cable TV Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Conf. Room 1, City Hall Annex</u>
6	<u>Zoning Advisory Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
7	<u>Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program training, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., NICC Town Clock Center. Register at www.nicc.edu/continuinged or call 563-557-8271, ext. 380.</u>
11	<u>Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex</u>
12	<u>Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course</u>
14	<u>Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Bldg., Rm 223</u>
16	<u>Taste of the World Fundraiser, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Five Flags Arena</u>
18	<u>City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
19	<u>Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
20	<u>Long-Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
20	<u>Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
21	<u>Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
25	<u>Airport Commission, 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center</u>
26	<u>Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
26	<u>Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library</u>
28	<u>Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room</u>
28	<u>Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building</u>

April

1	<u>Weekly collection of yard waste and food scrap collection resumes.</u>
1	<u>City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
2	<u>Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room 1, City Hall Annex</u>
3	<u>Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex</u>
3	<u>Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
8	<u>Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex</u>
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22	<u>Airport Commission, 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center</u>
23	<u>Housing Commission, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.</u>
23	<u>Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library</u>
24	<u>Investment Oversight Advisory Commission, 3 p.m., Conf. Rm. A, City Hall</u>
25	<u>Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building</u>
25	<u>Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room</u>
29	<u>Five Flags Advisory Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center</u>

This calendar does not include all events, and is subject to change. Are you using Dubuque's "Notify Me" e-mail alert system? If not, please sign up today at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.

City Hall: 50 W. 13th St.

City Hall Annex: 1300 Main St.

Historic Federal Building: 350 W. 6th St.

Carnegie-Stout Public Library: 360 W. 11th St.

Bunker Hill Snack Bar: 2200 Bunker Hill Rd.