

# CITYnews



VOL. 13 ISSUE 4

JULY/AUGUST 2015

## MyDBQ Smartphone App Gives Residents Access to Report Concerns, Pay Utility Bills, and More - 24/7

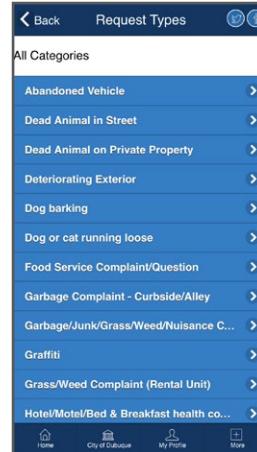
The City of Dubuque recently launched MyDBQ, a free mobile app for submitting requests for service or reporting concerns. Residents can conveniently submit and track non-emergency service requests through the app, and the request is routed to the appropriate City department.



The app features an optional "Find Me" tool that will help determine the location of the request more accurately. Users can also take photos and upload them with the request for better clarification.

In addition to submitting requests, the app includes quick links to City job openings, Notify Me email/text notification services, links to pay a utility bill or parking ticket, FAQs, and the City calendar.

MyDBQ is available free of charge for Android and Apple devices and can be found on Google Play and the App Store by searching for "MyDBQ," or by scanning the QR code to the right. For more details on the app, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/MyDBQ](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/MyDBQ). §



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## Upper Bee Branch and Green Alley Construction Updates

On May 18, the Dubuque City Council awarded two contracts for the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration phase of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. While the bids were significantly higher than estimates, plans were adjusted to allow the project to proceed without increasing planned debt and without increasing previously adopted stormwater rates.

Contract one was awarded to Portzen Construction, Inc. of Dubuque. The improvements associated with this contract are generally associated with the channel grading, the reconstruction of streets, and the relocation of City utilities (storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water main)

from Garfield Avenue to East 24th Street. Construction began near Garfield Avenue on June 1.

Contract two was awarded to Tricon General Construction, Inc. of Dubuque. The improvements associated with this contract are generally associated with the construction of major structures including the Rhomberg Avenue and East 22nd Street bridges, underground box culverts, the structure at East 24th Street where stormwater will discharge into the creek, and the structure at Garfield Avenue where the creek will flow under the street and ultimately through the railroad property into the Lower Bee Branch.

To receive project updates and alerts via email and/or text including construction dates, road closures, and detours, subscribe to the Bee Branch Project Notify Me at [www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme).

Green alley projects in the Bee Branch Watershed are underway. Since April, eight alley conversions have been completed with approximately 42 more planned for the 2015 and 2016 construction seasons. A map and complete list of green alleys is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/greenalleys](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/greenalleys). §

# Is Your Rental Property Licensed?



The City of Dubuque's Department of Housing and Community Development is offering rental property owners who are currently renting property without a rental license the opportunity to register their property without paying a municipal infraction. The deadline to take advantage of this opportunity is Aug. 1, 2015.

According to the Dubuque Code of Ordinances, a "rental unit" or "rental property" is any dwelling unit intended for human habitation and requires a payment, in money or services, to the owner of the unit. All rental property owners are required to have a current, unrevoked residential rental license, which requires the rental property to be inspected to ensure that the unit meets City safety code. The intent of the City's rental license ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the general public; to assure preservation of the existing housing supply; and maintain property values.

The City of Dubuque is requesting all non-licensed rental properties to be licensed before Aug. 1, 2015. Standard fees are \$12 per building, \$12 per unit, \$24 per single-family unit, and \$36 per duplex. Properties that are currently non-licensed will be subject to double licensing fees. Beginning Aug. 1, 2015, unlicensed properties will be subject to double license fees and a \$750 municipal infraction. Rental property owners interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should call 563-589-4231 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/rentalproperty](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/rentalproperty) for additional details.

If you are a renter and would like to know if your landlord is licensed, please call 563-589-4231 or email [ternster@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ternster@cityofdubuque.org). §

**2015 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
**A good night to get to know your neighbors!**  
Help build a stronger, safer community!  
**Tuesday, Aug. 4, from 6-8 p.m. - Comiskey Park**  
**Free Games \* Food \* Fun for the whole family!**



## Avoid Sewer Charges for Outside Watering

As temperatures rise, 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. 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](mailto:utilityb@cityofdubuque.org) with any questions. §

## City Employees Needing Access to Properties

In recent months, unauthorized individuals impersonating City of Dubuque Water Department employees have targeted Dubuque residents, attempting to gain access into their homes for purposes of committing theft or other crimes. City of Dubuque Water Department employees would only require access to the interior or exterior of the property if they need to check on the outside reading device (MIU) attached to the outside of your home, or to check on your meter inside your home if we have stopped receiving reads. The service workers will be driving a vehicle marked with City of Dubuque logo and department name and will also be carrying a City ID. If you have any concerns regarding their entry, please feel free to call 563-589-4144. §



**City offices will be closed on July 3 in observance of Independence Day. There will be no trash/recycling/yard waste collection changes.**

## Landscaping and the Public Right-of-Way

When property is developed, property owners dedicate part of the land as "public right-of-way" for streets, sidewalks, utilities and similar public uses. This area can extend up to 10 feet beyond the back of a curb. City Code prohibits private property landscaping, including trees, plants, shrubs, or bushes from obstructing the public right-of-way.

Dubuque's recently amended Street Tree and Landscaping on Public Right-of-Way Policy now allows property owners to plant and maintain shrubs or other plantings in the public right-of-way, with restrictions on placement and height. It is a property owner's responsibility to trim and maintain all plantings so there is no overhang onto, over, or into a sidewalk or street.

Private property plantings should not grow over or into public right-of-way and not obstruct view of traffic, traffic signs/lights, or pedestrian walkways. Private plantings must be trimmed to 10 feet clearance over a sidewalk and 14 feet over a roadway. Liability arising from the plantings is a property owner's responsibility. Failure to comply with the policy may result in a municipal infraction.

More information about landscaping and trees in the public right-of-way, including the complete policy, is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/trees](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/trees) or by calling 563-589-4263. §

<b>Carnegie-Stout PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>		<b>Summer Hours</b>
<b>Mon. - Wed.</b>	<b>9 a.m. to 8 p.m.</b>	
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Noon to 8 p.m.</b>	
<b>Fri. - Sat.</b>	<b>9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed (thru Sept. 6)</b>	
For further information regarding the Library's schedule of hours or services the Library provides, please call 589-4225.		



## A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

### Sledding Ordinance Repealed and City Receives National Sustainability Certification

It was announced in early May that Dubuque was awarded a 4-STAR Community Rating for national excellence in sustainability. Dubuque became just the third Iowa community and the 25th in the nation to achieve certification under the national STAR Community Rating System (STAR).

The STAR Community Rating System is a comprehensive sustainability rating system for cities, towns, and counties, which helps communities evaluate themselves across seven areas related to sustainability, such as built environment; climate and energy; economy and jobs; education, arts and community; health and safety; and natural systems. For instance, communities get credit for reductions in energy use, increased transportation access, and increased investment in locally owned and operated financial institutions. STAR provides support as localities benchmark progress, and a third-party review ensures accountability.

The STAR framework includes everything from how safe residents feel, how successful schools are, and how fast emergency response times are, to things like workforce readiness, housing affordability, and civic engagement. Over 30 Sustainable Dubuque partners collaborated over the past year to collect data to measure the community's progress towards national sustainability standards. Dubuque scored highest in the "built environment" and "education, arts, and community" categories. Other notable achievements within the assessment included:

- **Built Environment:** Dubuque far exceeded the national threshold for total acreage of and access to public



space. While the national threshold is 85 percent, nearly 98 percent of Dubuque homes are within a half-mile of a park or public space. Dubuque holds 77.8 park acres per 1,000 residents, while the national threshold for a community the size of Dubuque is 20.3. Parks promote active living lifestyles, provide environmental and health benefits, and also provide a venue for community programming.

- **Climate & Energy:** Dubuque demonstrated a five percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2003 and 2011.
- **Economy & Jobs:** Since 2000, downtown rehabilitation has contributed to 3,000 net new jobs and over \$329 million in public and private improvements. The Petal Project green business certification also offers an innovative framework to help businesses reach their sustainability goals.
- **Equity & Empowerment:** Dubuque shows a commitment to civil and human rights through the Human Rights Code, a Human Rights Department within the local government, and an independent Human Rights Commission, which provides independent oversight and convenes dialogues around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- **Health & Safety:** Dubuque is a top performer in the state in terms of community health indicators, such as mortality, tobacco use, and diet and exercise. The City has also increased production of local foods through community garden plots, and the Dubuque School District has passed a School Wellness Policy to promote activity and healthy foods in schools.

Communities pursuing STAR certification accumulate points for their achievements across the seven goal areas, which are used to determine their rating. There are four STAR recognition levels: Reporting Community (50-199 points); 3-STAR Community (200-399 points); 4-STAR Community (400-599 points); or 5-STAR (600+ points). Dubuque received a score of 468, qualifying it as a 4-STAR Community, recognized for "national excellence" in sustainability. Only two cities have received a 5-STAR Community rating, the highest achievable. Continued progress will be measured when the City submits for recertification in three years. For more details on Dubuque's certification, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/STARcommunity](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/STARcommunity). Visit [www.sustainabledubuque.org](http://www.sustainabledubuque.org) for more information on Dubuque's sustainability efforts.

This news may seem out-of-season, but Dubuque was in the national news for this issue earlier this year and I wanted to provide an update. Following the April 2015 adoption of a new state law that protects cities from sledding-related liability and a subsequent recommendation from the Dubuque Parks and Recreation Commission, the City Council recently repealed an ordinance that designated sledding areas on city property. In January 2015, when the ordinance was adopted, it was hoped that state legislation would be passed to protect cities from lawsuits related to sledding injuries on city property. We are pleased the Iowa legislature approved this law unanimously in both the House and the Senate and we encourage residents to safely enjoy Dubuque's parks year-round. §



Join us for the 2nd Annual Lighted Boat Parade!  
Saturday, August 1, at dusk (around 9 p.m.)  
Port of Dubuque Marina

### Jule MiniBus Fare Increase

Effective July 1, 2015, all MiniBus rides will cost \$3. This is the second phase of a fare increase that was approved during the FY15 budget process with a public hearing held on March 5, 2014. The 10-ride MiniBus punch cards are now available at the new rate. §

## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

<b>Debra Alleyne</b> - Economic Development	<b>Elliot McAllister</b> - Fire
<b>Terry Barkhurst</b> - Transit	<b>Brian Recker</b> - Fire
<b>Daniel Dietzel</b> - Fire	<b>Jake Roth</b> - Public Works
<b>Justin Dura</b> - Police	<b>William Runde III</b> - Parking
<b>Aisha Hallman</b> - Library	<b>Andrew Sprengelmeyer</b> - Fire
<b>Ann Harris</b> - Library	<b>Jordan Waddick</b> - Police
<b>James Herbst</b> - Parking	<b>Christoper Welu</b> - Fire
<b>Kimberly Hoover</b> - Police	<b>Shari Wissing</b> - Parking
<b>Angela Johnson</b> - Library	<b>Tyler Young</b> - Airport

## WWII Era Aircraft Returning to Dubuque

The North American Trainer Association (NATA) will return to Dubuque with historical aircraft from July 16-19. Over 45 WWII AT-6 Texans, 5 P-51 Mustangs, and other WWII era military training aircraft will operate from the ramp at Dubuque Regional Airport. The public is invited to watch from the observation area adjacent to the airport entryway. For best viewing times, spectators can visit the area between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. §

## First Annual Summer Sustainability Fair

Join Green Iowa AmeriCorps and local businesses and organizations related to the environment, health and wellness, the arts, and more for the Summer Sustainability Fair on Sat., July 25 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Dubuque Rescue Mission Garden. FREE for all to attend. Enjoy booths, music, food, fun and prizes! §

## Retirements

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

**Joe Blodgett** - Fire      **Kenneth McClean** - Public Works

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 [twitter.com/CityofDubuque](https://twitter.com/CityofDubuque)

## 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  
[cymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:cymgr@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](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).

## July

1	Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
1	Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
3	City offices closed for Independence Day (no change to curbside collection)
6	City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
7	Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
8	Tot Olympics, ages 3-5, Allison-Henderson Park, 6 p.m.
9	Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
13	Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
14	Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar
15	Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
15	Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
15	City-wide Playground Carnival, 6-8 p.m., Allison-Henderson Park
16	Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
16	Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building
20	City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
21	Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
22	Investment Oversight Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., Conf. Rm. A, City Hall
22	Water Carnival, Flora Pool, ages 5-14, 6:30 p.m.
24	Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
23	Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building
28	Civic Center Commission, 3:30 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center
27	Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
28	Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
28	Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library

## August

1	Lighted Boat Parade, Port of Dubuque Marina, approx. 9 p.m.
3	City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
4	Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
4	National Night Out, Comiskey Park, 6-8 p.m.
5	Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
5	Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
5	City-wide Amateur Night, Allison-Henderson Park, 6:15 p.m.
10	Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
11	Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar
13	Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
16	Tentative final day for swimming at Sutton Pool
17	City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
18	Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
19	Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
19	Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
20	Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building
20	Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
24	Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
25	Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
25	Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
27	Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building
27	Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
28	Tentative final day for swimming at Flora Pool