

# CITYnews



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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

## Come to the Table: Input Sought on City Budget

Dubuque residents and stakeholders are invited to "come to the table" as City staff prepares the City's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2017, which runs July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. The public is encouraged to "come to the table" and bring "ingredients" (their input related to the city budget) to create a "meal" (budget) that will serve the entire community.

Staff are inviting the community to come to the table on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the Multicultural Family Center at 1157 Central Ave. from 6 – 7 p.m. City staff will provide some general information on the budget process at this meeting and then

residents and stakeholders are invited to share their thoughts on what they would like to see funded in their neighborhoods and the community at-large.

People unable to attend the meeting are invited to provide feedback by completing a brief questionnaire by Nov. 22 at City budget kiosks on display at: City Hall at 50 W. 13th St., the first-floor lobby of the Historic Federal Building at 350 W. Sixth St., Carnegie-Stout Public Library at 360 W. 11th St., Multicultural Family Center at 1157 Central Ave., and the



Leisure Services Department at 2200 Bunker Hill Rd. Additionally, public input can be submitted through an online form at [www.cityofdubuque.org/budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/budget).

Input collected through this fall's community engagement efforts will be reviewed by staff and will assist in the development of a recommended FY2017 budget to be submitted to the City Council in January 2016. A report will be made available to all who provided input showing how the input received was used. The City Council will then consider the recommended budget and the public will have additional opportunities to offer input during seven public meetings in February and early March. A final budget must be adopted by March 15.

The City's operating budget (day to day costs of providing city services) is around \$120 million and the capital budget, which includes major projects and improvements, is approximately \$80 million. If you would like to learn more about the budget process, you can find additional details, including a video, frequently asked questions, past budgets and more at [www.cityofdubuque.org/budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/budget). §

### MAKING SENSE OF 'DOLLARS AND CENTS'

The City of Dubuque is committed to transparency and accountability in all its operations, especially when it comes to how city funds are spent. The City recently launched a new online tool that provides unprecedented access to City expenditure information. Technically speaking, this tool is considered an open data financial transparency app. By visiting [dollarsandcents.cityofdubuque.org](http://dollarsandcents.cityofdubuque.org), anyone can see detailed information on the City's operating expenses, operating revenues, and capital improvement project expenses. The goal is to provide data in a citizen-friendly way including charts, graphs, and images are easy to understand.

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*Are you in need of healthcare coverage? Do you have questions regarding the Affordable Healthcare Act?*

Crescent Community Health Center has trained staff available to review your health insurance needs, free of charge.

They can answer your questions and help you sign up for coverage through Iowa Health and Wellness Plans (Medicaid) or Health Insurance Marketplace. Open

enrollment for 2016 coverage is Nov. 1 - Jan. 30, 2016. Call Angela at 563-552-8080 or Angela at 563-690-2856.



# Arts and Culture Master Plan Feedback Requested

The Arts and Cultural Master Plan is a guide for the City of Dubuque to aid in directing resources and ensuring that arts and culture is an integral part of the Dubuque community in the future. It is intended to reflect the community's desire to utilize arts and culture to enhance their sense of community; contribute to economic vitality; create and support an environment where art and culture thrive; and enrich the community culturally, aesthetically, and economically.

## Here are 5 basics about the Arts and Cultural Master Plan:

### 1. It's a framework

The Arts and Cultural Master Plan will be like a handbook that helps guide the City of Dubuque in strengthening arts and culture. The plan will recommend policies, procedures, priorities, and strategies for working with individuals, organizations, and businesses.

### 2. It's a resource for supporters of the arts

It is a guide that can show organizations, businesses and individuals who want to engage in and support arts and culture in Dubuque how they can be involved.

### 3. It's a vehicle for sustainability and growth

Sustainability of our arts and cultural environment will contribute to the long-term prosperity of Dubuque. This plan is meant to help our talented artists and dedicated organizations flourish

and expand. As a result, we will be the beneficiaries of their creative vision and beauty for generations to come.

### 4. It promotes community enrichment

Individuals and families, residents and visitors, all benefit from the aesthetic beauty, historical heritage, and arts and cultural activities in Dubuque. The community looks forward to the annual fine and performing arts offerings and diverse cultural events held in Dubuque that enrich our collective quality of life.

### 5. It fosters retention and economic development

Businesses and nonprofits, colleges and students also benefit of an active arts and cultural scene. The vitality of a city is proven to attract and retain young people and creative entrepreneurs. Investment in arts and culture is a great way to support the local community and to help talented individuals relocating here make Dubuque feel like home.

### How can you be involved?

Community input is critical as the plan is developed and we consider how existing programs and policies can be improved. What do you want in your master plan? Input is being gathered in a variety of ways and one of the simplest is to complete the master plan survey available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/artsandculture](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/artsandculture). Get updates and share your thoughts at [facebook.com/ArtsandCultureDBQ](https://facebook.com/ArtsandCultureDBQ) or call 563-690-6059. §

# Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Dubuque

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestations have now been confirmed in 28 Iowa counties, including Dubuque County and the city of Dubuque. The EAB is a small, metallic green, non-native invasive pest whose larvae feast on the inner bark of ash trees, ultimately disrupting their ability to transport nutrients and causing the tree's eventual decline and death.

In preparation for the Emerald Ash Bores arrival, the City has inventoried trees on right-of-ways and other public property and found that ash trees make up 24 percent of the City's total street tree canopy. The City is in the early stages of implementing the management plan created in preparation for the infestation.

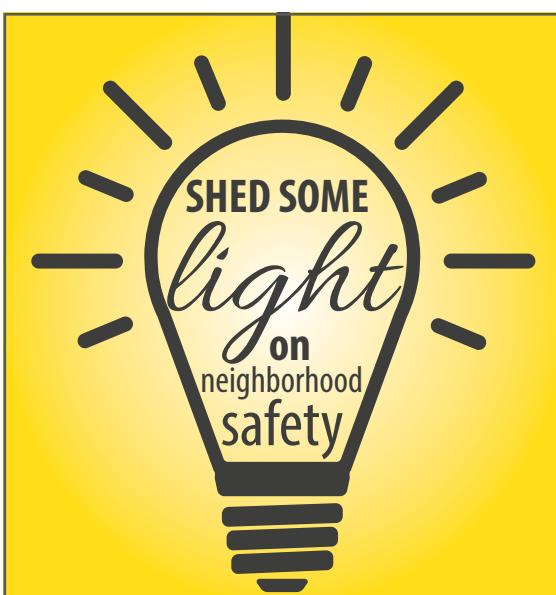
Residents concerned about their privately owned ash trees can check for the following symptoms since these symptoms are usually apparent before the insects are spotted:

- Canopy/crown thinning and dieback starting at the top
- 1/8 inch D-shaped exit holes on trunk or branches
- Suckers sprouting on lower limbs and trunk
- Woodpecker flecking activity on tree branches

Residents can contact an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)-certified arborist with questions or for confirmation of suspected EAB. For more information, please visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/EAB](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/EAB) or call 563-589-4260. §

## Prevent Water Meters from Freezing

The City of Dubuque Water Department reminds you to make sure that the plumbing and water meter in your home or business are properly protected from freezing. Verify that your basement/utility room windows are tightly sealed from summer use and that there is proper heating provided to these areas. If you use heat tapes, make sure they are properly installed and are working safely. If your water meter freezes, you are responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement for a damaged water meter. Please take the time now, before winter arrives, to ensure that the plumbing and water meter in your home or business are properly protected. §



The City of Dubuque offers rebates for property owners who install front or rear yard lighting that also projects onto a public sidewalk or other public areas. Front yard lighting is eligible for a 50% rebate up to \$250 and rear yard lighting is eligible for a 50% rebate up to \$100. To be eligible to receive the rebate, first contact the Building Services Department to arrange for a preliminary inspection of your site. For questions or to set up a preliminary inspection visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/yardlighting](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/yardlighting) or call 563-589-4150.



# A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The Dubuque City Council completed its annual goal-setting sessions in August. Over the course of two sessions in July and a follow-up session in mid-August, City Council members reaffirmed the 15-year vision statement, mission statement, and goals. They also identified top and high priorities for a 2015-2017 policy agenda as well as a management agenda for projects and initiatives planned for 2015-2017.

## FIVE-YEAR COMMUNITY GOALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE

- Economic Prosperity
- Environmental Integrity
- Social/Cultural Vibrancy

## FIVE-YEAR CITY GOALS

- Planned and Managed Growth
- Partnering for a Better Dubuque
- Improved Connectivity: Transportation and Telecommunications

## FIVE-YEAR ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL

- Financially Responsible City Government and High Performance Organization

## 2015-2017 Top Priorities: (in alphabetical order)

### 1) East-West Corridor Study Implementation

City Goal: Improved Connectivity

#### Key Issues:

- Property acquisition
- Environmental assessment
- Funding for design and construction of roundabouts

### 2) Environmental Stewardship Commission (Community Resiliency Commission)

Community Goal: Environmental/Ecological Integrity

#### Key Issues:

- Purpose and role of commission
- Determine process for community engagement, size and diverse representation of community
- Staff support and funding

### 3) Historic Millwork District Parking (470 spaces)

City Goal: Improved Connectivity

#### Key Issues:

- Land acquisition
- Funding

### 4) Inclusive Dubuque Action Plan

Community Goal: Social/Cultural Vibrancy

#### Key Issues:

- Community engagement process on development of action plan for priority areas
- City role as a partner in implementation of action plan

### 5) Street Maintenance Program

City Goal: Improved Connectivity

#### Key Issues:

- Evaluate existing service level targets
- Funding to restore or expand service level targets

### 2015 – 2017 High Priorities (in alphabetical order):

### 1) Central Iowa Water Association

City Goal: Planned and Managed Growth

#### Key Issues:

- Annexation
- Funding
- Water infrastructure

### 2) City Economic Development

Community Goal: Economic Prosperity

#### Key Issues:

- Review staffing levels and partners
- Funding
- Goals and performance expectations

### 3) Citywide Flower-Planting Program

City Goal: Partnering for a Better Dubuque

#### Key Issues:

- Policy on use of volunteers
- Policy of location(s) for existing or new plantings and type of plant (annual vs. perennial)
- Funding and hiring freeze
- Ongoing operation and maintenance costs

### 4) Comprehensive Plan

City Goal: Planned and Managed Growth

#### Key Issues:

- Funding
- Community assessment and input process

### 5) Debt Reduction Policy

Organizational Goal: Financially Responsible City Government and High Performance Organization

#### Key Issues:

- Education for general public and for city staff
- Continued implementation of strategic debt reduction

### 6) Methane Gas Plan

Community Goal: Environmental/Ecological Integrity

#### Key Issues:

- Identify opportunities for methane gas reuse in city operations including BioCNG
- Development agreement for methane gas reuse

### 7) Surveillance Camera Funding

Community Goal: Social/Cultural Vibrancy

#### Key Issues:

- Evaluate types of cameras for future purchase
- Funding and location of additional cameras
- Use and storage of data and information

### 2015 – 2017 Management Agenda (in alphabetical order):

### 1) Greater Dubuque Development Corporation: Sustainable Innovation

Community Goal: Economic Prosperity

#### Key Issues:

- Alternative energy options including bio compressed natural gas and hydropower
- IBM Smarter Cities partnership next phase

### 2) Industrial Park Development

Community Goal: Economic Prosperity

#### Key Issues:

- Actions
- Funding

### 3) National Incident/Event Report

Community Goal: Social/Cultural Vibrancy

#### Key Issues:

- Community engagement
- Community preparedness

### 4) Skate Park

City Goal: Partnering for a Better Dubuque

#### Key Issues:

- Location and scope of project

### 5) Police: Review Best Practices

Organizational Goal: Financially Responsible City

Government and High Performance Organization

#### Key Issues:

- Community engagement
- Community preparedness

These goals and priorities serve as a “road map” as City staff prepare the recommended operating budget and capital improvement project budget for City Council consideration. They also assist staff in prioritizing projects and service delivery. For additional details on these goals and priorities and the management agenda, such as actions planned for 2015-2017, please visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/councilgoals](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/councilgoals). Handouts with details are available at City Hall, 50 W. 13th Street, and the City Council Chambers at the Historic Federal Building, 350 W. Sixth Street. §

# Smart911 for Business

Emergency calls come from within facilities or campuses every day, from landlines and mobile phones. Whether it is an employee, customer, or visitor in that location, having the information to reach the exact location within as well as access points, points of contact, and maps can cut seconds and minutes off of the response time. A Smart911 Facility profile can help emergency personnel in case of a fire, medical emergency, and even an active shooter or other incidents. These profiles are confidential and only appear for dispatch in the event the listed numbers call 911. Learn more and create a profile at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com).

## New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Yvette Bahena** - Transit

**Chad Crabill** - Police

**William Frye** - Transit

**Michelle Hellmer** - Library

**Beth Hill** - Library

**Cynthia Kramer** - Economic Development

**Christopher Lahey** - Public Works

**Elizabeth Martin** - Library

**Perry Martin** - Parking

**Don McMullen** - Transit

**Howard Riedel** - Parking

**Steven Thiltgen** - Transit

**Jeffrey Welp** - Transit

**Samuel White** - Police

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

**Gary Weets** - Fire

**Mike Burds** - Fire

**Richard Russell** - Building Services

**Robert Gednalski** - Emergency Communications

 [facebook.com/CityofDubuque](http://facebook.com/CityofDubuque)

 [twitter.com/CityofDubuque](http://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  
[ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ctymgr@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).

# CALENDAR

## November

2 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.  
3 Municipal Election - Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Call 563-589-4457 for more info.  
3 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
4 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
4 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
9 Human Rights Commission, 3:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex  
10 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar  
11 City offices closed for Veterans Day  
12 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Conf. Rm., 950 Elm. St.  
14 Successful Rental Property Management Program training, NICC Town Clock Center. Register at [www.nicc.edu/solutions](http://www.nicc.edu/solutions) or call 563-557-8271, ext. 380.  
16 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.  
17 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building  
18 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.  
18 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building  
18 FY2017 Public Budget Input Meeting, 6 p.m., Multicultural Family Center  
19 Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building  
19 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room  
19 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
19 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
23 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center  
24 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.  
24 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library  
26-27 City offices closed for Thanksgiving

## December

1 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
2 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
2 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
7 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.  
8 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar  
10 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Conf. Rm., 950 Elm. St.  
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17 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room  
17 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
21 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.  
22 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building  
22 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library  
24-25 City offices closed for Christmas  
28 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center  
31 City offices closed for New Year's Eve

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.  
Dubuque Jet Center: 11000 Airport Rd.