

# CITYnews



VOL. 14 ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

## Del Toro and Rios Elected to City Council

Two new City Council members have been elected and will be sworn into office at the Jan. 4, 2016, City Council meeting.



Luis Del Toro, of 901 Gilliam St., was elected to the Dubuque City Council in November 2015 to represent the city's Second Ward. He moved to Dubuque in 2007. A native of Texas, he lived in

Tennessee and Wisconsin before moving to Iowa.

Del Toro and his wife, Leslie, a Dubuque native, have two sons. He is a Senior Program Manager with WS Live in Dubuque. He attended the University of Incarnate Word and Palo Alto College, both in San Antonio, Texas.

Del Toro has served as a Dubuque Chamber Ambassador since 2013. He is also a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Dubuque chapter and also is a committee member for the Dubuque Main Street Putz' Around Downtown fundraising event. His past civic involvement includes participating as a team leader for Dubuque Days of Caring over the past six years. Del Toro

also served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer while living in Texas. Del Toro can be reached at 563-513-0835 or via email at [ldelatoro@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ldelatoro@cityofdubuque.org).



Jake A. Rios of 561 Jefferson St. was elected as the Ward Four representative on the Dubuque City Council. A native of Visalia, California, he has been a Dubuque resident since 2005.

Rios and his wife, Paula, have a son and three daughters. They own and operate an in-home daycare, Rios' Rugrats Daycare, and a rental property business, Rios Enterprises. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from Clarke University in Dubuque.

Rios' community involvement includes serving as the local coordinator for the Council on International Educational Exchange and as a member of the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps' corporate board and booster board. He can be reached at 563-513-4242 or via email at [jrios@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:jrios@cityofdubuque.org). §

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### Winter Reminders from Public Works

#### Holiday Collections:

New Year's Day collection: Saturday, Jan. 2  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 18) collection: Saturday, Jan. 16

#### Winter Yard Debris/Food Scraps:

Now through March 31, 2016, yard debris/food scrap collection will be on Thursdays, by appointment only. Call 563-589-4250 or submit a winter yard waste/food scraps collection appointment at [www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste).

**Merry Mulch Program:** Christmas trees, yard waste and unscheduled food scraps in carts will be picked up Jan. 4 - 15 on regular collection days. Please attach a City brush tie or yard waste sticker.

**2016 Annual Yard Waste Decals** are now on sale at the City Hall Utility Billing window. §



### Sustainable Dubuque Community Grants Available

Sustainable Dubuque is seeking applicants for its quarterly Sustainable Dubuque Community Grant. Community project grants up to \$2,500 are available to residents, businesses, non-profits, churches, and schools. Approved projects will incorporate Sustainable Dubuque principles and include an element of community engagement and/or education. The application deadline is Jan. 1, 2016. Applications are available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/sustainability](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/sustainability). For additional information, call 563-690-6038. §

# Tax Breaks Available for Property Improvements

Property owners who upgrade their **residential properties** located within a designated urban revitalization district may receive a 10-year exemption from the property tax increase that normally accompanies many improvements. Feb. 1, 2016 is the deadline for applications from property owners in the following urban revitalization areas in Dubuque: Cathedral, Jackson, Langworthy, Manasseh House, Old Main, Salvia House, Upper Main, Washington Neighborhood, and West 11th St. To qualify, improvements must increase the assessed value of the property by at least 10 percent for single-family and 15 percent for multi-family properties.

Owners of **commercial property** in the Washington Neighborhood Urban Revitalization District may be eligible for a three-year exemption. Tax-assessable improvements include building additions, a new room, patio, porch, or deck. The addition of plumbing fixtures, installation of heating and electricity to unfinished rooms, and the installation of central air conditioning or a fireplace would be subject to property valuation as determined by the City Assessor.

Owners of **commercial property** located within the Kunkel and Associates Urban Revitalization District may receive a 10-year partial exemption of the actual value added by improvements. Feb. 1, 2016 is the deadline for these applications.

Applications and a district map are available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/urbanrevitalization](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/urbanrevitalization) or at the Housing and Community Development, 350 West Sixth St., Suite 312.

**Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1.** For more information, call 563-589-4212 or email [ehaugen@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ehaugen@cityofdubuque.org). §

## KEEP THAT SWING SHARP OVER THE WINTER!

Bunker Hill Golf Course is now offering a hitting net to work on your swing in the off season. Call Mike Sullivan at 563-589-4261 for details.

# Housing and Community Development Programs

The City of Dubuque Housing and Community Development Department provides a variety of resources to homeowners to rehabilitate, weatherize, and beautify their properties. Programs increase community pride, foster relationships between residents, and increase the taxable value of properties.

## Rehabilitation Programs

- Homeowner Rehabilitation Loans
- Home Repair
- Historic Preservation Grants
- Washington Neighborhood Homeowner Rehabilitation

## Homebuyer Programs

- First-Time Homebuyer
- Washington Neighborhood Homebuyer
- Section 8 Homeownership Voucher

For information on the above programs, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/housing](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/housing) or call 563-589-4239.



## Lead Hazard Control Program

This program provides financial assistance to pre-1978 residential and rental properties that:

- have children under the age of 6 that reside or visit the property no less than 10 percent of the month,
- meet income guidelines, and
- are determined by professional testing to have lead paint hazards.

For information on the lead hazard control program, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/housing](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/housing) or call 563-589-1724. §

# Catfish Creek Watershed Properties Eligible for Cost-Share Conservation Projects

The Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority and the City of Dubuque have partnered to create a cost-share program that offers financial incentives to all Catfish Creek landowners to install conservation practices on their property.

The Catfish Creek Watershed Authority Management Board recently finalized a watershed management plan for the entire 46,000-acre watershed and now plans to implement conservation practices such as bio-retention, rain gardens, vegetated swales, soil quality restoration, and wetland enhancements/establishments throughout the watershed.



both urban and rural property owners. Landowners in the Catfish Creek watershed are eligible to apply for one or more of identified best management practices.

The Catfish Creek Watershed Authority intends to use the available State Revolving Fund (SRF) sponsorship dollars to begin implementing improvements in the watershed as outlined in the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Plan. Building on public-private partnerships, the authority is developing cost-share programs for

The application deadline for cost-share projects is April 29, 2016. To download an application, or to view the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Plan, visit [www.catfishcreekwatershed.org](http://www.catfishcreekwatershed.org). For more information, contact Urban Conservationist Eric Schmechel at [eschmechel@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:eschmechel@cityofdubuque.org) or 563-876-3418. §



# A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

## Dubuque Named Semi-Finalist for \$5 Million Energy Prize

The City of Dubuque is partnering with local utility providers, nonprofits, and kindergarten-12th grade schools to compete in the Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP). The GUEP is a challenge initiated by Georgetown University to incent small to medium-sized cities to implement creative strategies to reduce energy use in residential, municipal, and K-12 school buildings.

In addition to the environmental and economic benefits all communities will experience by participating in the program, the GUEP will award one community \$5 million at the end of the competition based on a combination of their reduction in energy use and a final report which documents their partnerships and programs over the two-year period. The winning community may choose how to use the \$5 million, provided the money is spent on energy-efficiency programs that reward the community as a whole. Of the 200 communities that applied to the GUEP beginning in 2013, Dubuque was chosen as one of 52 semi-finalist communities. These 52 communities will compete to reduce energy use in residential, municipal, and K-12 schools in 2015 and 2016, using 2013 and 2014 data as a baseline.

Alliant Energy, Black Hills Energy, the Dubuque Community School District, Green Iowa Americorps, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency's Green Vision Schools, Holy Family Schools, Operation New View, and newly-formed non-profit Trailhead Energy will coordinate outreach, education, and implementation efforts over the next two years.

## Iowa Finance Authority Awards Dubuque Over \$147,000

The Iowa Finance Authority recently awarded the City of Dubuque Housing Trust Fund \$147,046. The funds will be used to offer loans for the purchase and/or rehab

of residential properties in the Washington Neighborhood and for homebuyer loans for income-qualified applicants to purchase homes anywhere within the city limits. For more info, call 563-589-4239 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/housingrehab](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/housingrehab). §

## Budget Public Meetings

The Mayor and City Council will hold a series of eight public meetings related to the City's operating and capital improvement program budgets for the 2017 fiscal year. These meetings feature presentations by departments and are additional opportunities for residents and stakeholders to learn more about the recommended budget and share their input. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Historic Federal Building at 350 W. Sixth St. All meetings are broadcast on CityChannel Dubuque on the Mediacom cable system on channels 8 (analog) and 85.2 (digital) and video streamed live and archived at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/media).

Date	Meeting Topic
Monday, Feb. 1, 2016	Recommended Budget Document Presentation to City Council at Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, Feb. 8, 2016	Department Presentations: Information Services, City Attorney, City Manager's Office, City Council, City Clerk, Cable TV
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016	Department Presentations: Library, Planning Services, Finance, Human Rights, Airport, Health Services
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016	Department Presentations: Housing & Community Development, Parking, The Jule Transit, Economic Development
Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016	Department Presentations: Purchase of Services, Parks, Recreation, Five Flags Civic Center, Grand River Center
Monday, Feb. 22, 2016	Department Presentations: Building Services, Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, Police, Fire
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016	Department Presentations: Water, Water & Resource Recovery Center, Public Works, Engineering
Monday, March 14, 2016	Public Hearing to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

The recommended budget materials will be placed on the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget webpage at [www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2017budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2017budget) on Tuesday, Feb. 2, and will be available at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 50 W. 13th St., and at the Reference Desk at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library at 360 W. 11th St. For additional information, call 563-589-4110.



Crescent Community Health Center is available to discuss your health insurance options. Open enrollment for Health Insurance Marketplace is now through Jan. 30, 2016. Enrollment for Iowa Health and Wellness Plan is year-round. Please contact Angela at (563) 552-8080 or Laura at (563) 690-2856 for free, in-person assistance.

## Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast

The 24th Annual Dr. King Breakfast will be held on Jan. 18, 2016, at 7 a.m. at the Grand River Center. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 8 by calling 563-588-2700 or visiting [www.dbqfoundation.org/MLK](http://www.dbqfoundation.org/MLK). §

# New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Ose Akinlotan** - Planning  
**Alexander Kristofer** - Airport  
**Martin Benda** - Emergency Communications  
**Joshua Contreraz** - Water & Resource Recovery Center  
**Jason Cox** - Emergency Communications  
**Lawrence Dearstone** - Transit  
**Thea Dement** - Library  
**Patricia Evers** - Library  
**Steven Heer** - Parking  
**Richard Heston** - Parking  
**Maria Katzenstein** - Engineering  
**Kerry Leppert** - Water  
**Lindsay Leppert** - Transit  
**Sheila McCarty** - Parking  
**Timothy Neuhaus** - Parking  
**Kondwani Phiri** - Library  
**Hollie Ramseyer** - Library  
**Tanner Rau** - Airport  
**Cassandra Sikkema** - Airport  
**Lacey Tsacudakis** - Library  
**Richard Zeller** - Public Works

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

**Larry Maule** - Transit  
**Cory Sommer** - Police  
**Jerome Welsh** - Public Works

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 [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



## 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

## January

1 City offices closed for New Year's Day. Curbside collection will be Sat., Jan. 2  
4 In-person, mail, e-mail and/or fax registration begins for Leisure Services Winter/Spring activities  
4 City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
4-15 Merry Mulch Christmas tree recycling program and yard waste collection. Call 563-589-4250 for details.  
5 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
6 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
6 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
11 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex  
12 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar  
14 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Center, 950 Elm St.  
18 City offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Curbside collection will be Sat., Jan. 16  
18 24th Annual Dr. King Breakfast, 7 a.m. Grand River Center. Pre-registration required by Jan. 8 at [www.dqbfoundation.org/MLK](http://www.dqbfoundation.org/MLK).  
19 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building  
19 City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
20 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.  
20 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
21 Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building  
21 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
25 Five Flags Civic Center Commission, 3:30 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center  
25 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center  
26 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building  
26 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library  
27 Investment Oversight Advisory Committee Meeting, 3 p.m., Conf. Room A, City Hall  
28 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
28 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room

## February

1 City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building. Includes FY2017 Budget Document Presentation to City Council.  
2 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
3 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex  
3 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
8 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex  
8 FY2017 Budget Hearing #1, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
9 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar  
10 FY2017 Budget Hearing #2, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
11 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Center, 950 Elm St.  
15 City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
16 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building  
17 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.  
17 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
17 FY2017 Budget Hearing #3, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
18 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building  
18 FY2017 Budget Hearing #4, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
22 FY2017 Budget Hearing #5, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
22 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center  
23 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building  
23 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library  
24 FY2017 Budget Hearing #6, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building  
25 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room  
25 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building

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.