

# CITYnews



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## City Offers 50% Reduction of Two Monthly Fees for Income-Qualified Customers

The City of Dubuque offers a 50 percent reduction in monthly refuse/trash and stormwater fees for income-qualified, residential customers.

Categories of eligibility include age and annual income, family size and annual income, and extreme financial hardship. To be considered for this fee reduction program, customers must submit an application and income verification. Current income guidelines eligibility requirements are indicated on the chart to the right.

Applications for this program must be renewed on an annual basis. This credit/discount does not apply to City water and sewer fees.

To apply, or for more information, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling) or contact the City of Dubuque Utility Billing Department at 563-589-4144. §

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$25,900
2	\$29,600
3	\$33,000
4	\$37,000
5	\$40,000
6	\$42,950
7	\$45,900
8	\$48,850

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## Dubuque Garners National Recognitions

### 'Finding Dubuque'

"Anyone can restore a building. But Dubuque residents, together, are restoring a community." That's the conclusion of a nine-page article entitled "Heart and Soul" in the fall issue of "Preservation," the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The publication's cover features a photo of Dubuque's Historic Millwork District and, "Finding Dubuque: An Iowa city rediscovers its sense of place." The article explores Dubuque's current and past historic preservation efforts and projects. The author said her visit to Dubuque "helped me understand the unusually deep and detailed public-private partnerships that are making Dubuque a model of economic development and community revitalization." [www.savingplaces.org/preservation-magazine](http://www.savingplaces.org/preservation-magazine).

### LEED-Certified

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council that advances healthy, green, and economically strong cities and communities. STAR stands for Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities and is a national framework for measuring and advancing local government's environmental, economic, and community efforts to achieve sustainability.

As one of the 75 STAR-certified cities and counties in the nation, Dubuque was recently named a LEED-Certified City. LEED helps cities and communities benchmark current performance, track performance metrics, communicate continuous improvement, educate residents, visitors and business owners to demonstrate commitment to sustainability, human health, and economic prosperity.

### Municipal Equality Score of 100

On a scale of 0 to 100, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) gave Dubuque a score of 100 on its 2018 Municipal Equality Index, a ranking of municipalities across the country based on the inclusiveness of their laws, policies, and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) residents.

HRC is a national education and advocacy organization working to achieve equality for LGBTQ people. Since 2012, the HRC has issued the annual Municipal Equality Index, ranking cities on 44 criteria covering non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and the city leadership's public position on equality.

Over 500 cities were ranked this year and Dubuque's score of 100 is significantly higher than the national average score of 58 points. Dubuque's 2017 score was 94. §

## Art in the Park Snow Sculpting Event, Jan. 23-26

The City of Dubuque, in partnership with the Dubuque Museum of Art and Winterfun, Inc., will present a snow sculpting event in support of the City's Art in the Park initiative. For the second consecutive year, the snow sculpting competition and community snow sculpting event will be held in Washington Park at 700 Locust Street. Teams of sculptors/carvers will transform 6' x 6' x 8' blocks of snow into works of art from Wednesday, Jan. 23, until noon on Saturday, Jan. 26. Spectators are welcome to stop by and observe the teams at work.



A free community event will be held at the park from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26, when the competition ends and winners are announced. People of all ages are invited to attend the event Saturday and carve on a limited number of designated blocks with tools provided as part of the museum's "Second Saturday" activities. Light refreshments will be provided. In the event of inclement weather, please call 563-557-1851 for event schedule changes. [www.cityofdubuque.org/artinthepark](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/artinthepark).

## What if 9-1-1 Can't Find You?

Over 80 percent of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phones; but when you dial 9-1-1 from a mobile phone, the 9-1-1 call takers have very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location. This is a serious problem in an emergency when seconds count, particularly if you or your loved ones have medical conditions, or are unable to safely speak. The City of Dubuque and Dubuque County offer a free solution that saves time and saves lives: Smart911.

With Smart911, you can provide 9-1-1 call takers and first responders critical information you want them to know in any kind of emergency. When you call 9-1-1, your Smart911 Safety Profile displays 9-1-1 call takers can view your addresses, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like. Plus, Smart911 is a national service, meaning your Smart911 Safety Profile travels with you and is visible to any participating 9-1-1 center nationwide. Your Safety Profiles can include:

- People living in your household
- Phone numbers associated with your family
- Pets, service animals, and livestock
- Medical conditions and allergies
- Medications and medical equipment
- Property details, layout, and utility information
- Vehicle descriptions
- Emergency contacts

Sign up today at [Smart911.com](http://Smart911.com).



## Tyler Named Director of Transportation Services

Dubuque City Manager Mike Van Milligen appointed Renee Tyler to be the City's director of transportation services. Tyler previously served as the city's assistant public works director. She assumed her new role on Nov. 5, replacing Candace Eudaley-Loebach whose resignation was effective on Nov. 16.



As director of transportation services, Tyler is responsible for the operation of The Jule, Dubuque's public transit system with fixed-route bus service and door-to-door paratransit mini-bus service, and management of the city's parking system, including public ramps, lots, and parking meters. She serves as project manager for the department, coordinates vehicle and major equipment purchases, analyzes ridership and route performance, manages and maintains all parking facilities/assets and enforcement activities, controls and administers budgets for the transit and parking activities, and is responsible for departmental marketing programs and activities.

## Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Public Meetings

These meetings are additional opportunities for residents and stakeholders to learn more about the recommended budget and share their input. All meetings begin at 6 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 and 117.2 and video is streamed live and archived at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/media).

Date	Meeting Topics
Monday, Feb. 4	Recommended FY2020 Budget Document Presentation to City Council at Regular City Council Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 7	Information Services, City Attorney, City Clerk, Cable TV, City Manager's Office, City Council
Monday, Feb. 11, 2018	Health Services, Human Rights, Library, Airport, Finance
Wednesday, Feb. 13	Housing & Community Development, Planning, Parking, Economic Development, Transportation Services
Thursday, Feb. 21	Purchase of Services, Five Flags Civic Center, Grand River Center, Parks, Recreation
Monday, Feb. 25	Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, Police, Fire, Building Services
Wednesday, Feb. 27	Water, Water & Resource Recovery Center, Public Works, Engineering
Thursday, March 7	Public Hearing to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

The recommended budget materials will be placed on the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget webpage at [www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2020](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2020) budget on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 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.



# STATE OF THE CITY

## Mayor Roy D. Buol Winter 2019

Season's greetings and thank you for reading this new feature of City News!

Each year since 2007, it has been my privilege as mayor to deliver an annual State of the City Address to update you, the residents and stakeholders of our city, on the state of our community. These public presentations were also broadcast on television and streamed and archived online. Much has been achieved and much has changed since that tradition began. Among those changes is the dramatic increase in the ways we have to receive information on topics important to us. As a result, I have chosen to modify the State of the City format to connect with more people and provide more frequent updates on community projects, initiatives, and issues.

Beginning with this issue, a State of the City column will appear in this newsletter four times per year and that information will also be converted into a video that will air on CityChannel Dubuque (on Mediacom channels 8 and 117.2 and online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/media)) and will be shared on the City of Dubuque's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn channels.

For this inaugural column, I want to focus on a timely topic: the process to develop the City's annual operating and capital improvement program budgets. The City's budget preparation and administration begins and ends with the City Council and we take our responsibilities as stewards of public funds very seriously. In fact, Dubuque currently has the second lowest property tax rate of the 11 cities in Iowa with populations over 50,000. Dubuque's rate is 72 percent lower than the highest rate (Council Bluffs) and 45 percent lower than the average of those 11 cities.

The City's budget cycle is 12-months long and the City's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Public input is encouraged throughout the budget cycle to ensure that the budget is citizen-based. The process begins with the City soliciting input in the middle of the previous year. City department managers then get together for two days in June to develop information for the City Council. However, the development of the budget is driven by the goals and priorities developed by my City Council colleagues and me during three facilitated, public sessions held annually in early August. We review the City's vision and mission statements, identify five-year goals, and establish a prioritized policy agenda for the upcoming fiscal year as well as a prioritized management agenda. City staff use this information in the following months to provide

information to the city manager as the city manager creates a recommended budget for the following fiscal year that will support those goals and priorities.

Every November, the city manager holds a budget public input meeting to gather suggestions and ideas from residents and stakeholders for the next year's budget. Public input is also solicited at additional meetings with neighborhood groups and other organizations. Input can also be submitted online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/budget) where residents can also access a new budget simulation tool and budget documents from past years.

The City Council reviews and approves budget policy guidelines in December to assist the city manager in finalizing the recommended budget before it is presented to City Council, typically at the first City Council meeting in February. The recommended operating budget and five-year capital improvement program includes recommended property tax rates, rates and fees for city services and utilities, and other major budget considerations. The recommended budget and all related documents are public information and are posted to the City's budget webpage the day after they are presented to City Council and remain available for review.

Next, a series of six public meetings (see full schedule on page 2) are held to review individual department/division budget details. These are televised public meetings held in the City Council Chambers where department managers make presentations and residents and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and provide input. (Additional details on the fiscal year 2020 budget meetings are provided on page 2.) Following this series of meetings, City Council must hold a final public hearing to adopt the operating and capital budgets for the next fiscal year. State law requires that all cities in Iowa submit a balanced budget to the State Auditor by March 15 for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The adopted budget is then posted to the City website.

I hope this summary provides you with a better understanding of Dubuque's budget process. My City Council colleagues and I are committed to community engagement and we invite you to participate in this process and advocate for issues that are important to you and will improve our community. §



View the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget  
Public Meeting schedule on page 2



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Monday, Jan. 21

Grand River Center

7:00 a.m. Breakfast – 7:30 a.m. Celebration

Keynote Speaker: Vincent Bacote, Ph.D.

Registration: [www.dbqschools.org/facesandvoices](http://www.dbqschools.org/facesandvoices)

## New Faces & Retirements

*The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:*

### Gina Bell - Jacqueline Hunter -

City Manager's Office

### Christian Bradley - WRRC

### Michael Brecht - Parking

### Cynthia Coleman - Transit

### Kelley Duehr - Transit

### Mallory Flogel - Airport

### James Herbst -

Public Works

### Craig Hingtgen - Transit

### Matthew Hohmann - Parking

### Recreation

### Kaitlyn Lansing - Library

### Darwin Polk - Transit

### Thomas Schiesl - Transit

### Kelly Switz - Parking

### Chidubem Nkmeh - Parking

### Bailey Hussey - Library

### Christine Olson - Planning

### Carter Meyer - Police

*The City of Dubuque congratulates this recent retiree:*

### Tom Kopp - Engineering

*The City of Dubuque welcomes these new board or commission members:*

### Airport Commission

### Michael Phillips

### Human Rights Commission

### Erin Nuenster

### Housing Commission

### Michelle Becwar

### Resilient Community

### Advisory Commission

### Lalith Jayawickrama

 [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  
[cymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:cymgr@cityofdubuque.org)



2007-2012  
2013-2017

## 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.
- 7 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 7-18 Merry Mulch Program: Tree Recycling Program and Yard Waste Collection. See below or call 589-4250 for details.
- 21 City offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Monday's curbside collection will occur instead on Saturday, Jan. 19.
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Breakfast, 7 a.m. Grand River Center. Pre-registration required at [www.dbqschools.org/facesandvoices](http://www.dbqschools.org/facesandvoices).
- 21 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 22 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

## February

*FY2020 Budget Public Meetings schedule is listed on page 2.*

- 4 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 18 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

*This calendar does not include all events and is subject to change. Sign up for Dubuque's "Notify Me" e-mail/text alert system at [www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme) to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.*

## Household Hazardous Materials Drop-Off

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) accepts household hazardous wastes (HHW) such as oil-based paint, motor oil, lawn chemicals, and other chemicals through the winter season. HHWs pose an environmental and human health risk if not managed properly. These materials should be brought to the DMASWA Regional Collection Center (RCC) for safe disposal and should not be disposed of in trash cans, floor drains, or storm sewers.

This service is FREE to Dubuque and Delaware county households. From November through March, materials can be dropped off anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays. No appointments are needed for residential customers. Any businesses requiring hazardous waste disposal assistance may contact the RCC. The RCC is located at the Dubuque Metro Landfill along U.S. Highway 20 on Dubuque's west side. For more information, visit [www.dmaswa.org](http://www.dmaswa.org) or call 563.557.8220. §

## Winter Reminders from Public Works

### Holiday Curbside Collection Schedule:

- New Year's Eve: No change
- New Year's Day: Collected on Saturday, Dec. 29
- Weds., Jan. 2: No change
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Mon., Jan. 21):** Collected on Saturday, Jan. 19

### Merry Mulch Program:

Christmas trees (maximum of 8' high), yard waste bags, bundles, and containers (up to 35 lbs.) and unscheduled food scraps in carts will be picked up Jan. 7 - 18 on regular collection days. A City brush tie or yard waste sticker is required.

## Pool Passes on Sale

Pool passes for the 2019 summer season will be available at the Leisure Services Department at Bunker Hill Golf Course beginning Monday, Jan. 14. These passes will admit individuals into Flora and Sutton swimming pools during the period of May 25, 2019, through the winter/spring season 2020. Renewal memberships may be purchased online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation); a convenience fee is charged. The tentative summer 2019 opening date for Flora Pool and Sutton Pool is May 25. For more information, call 563.589.4263. §