

CITYnews



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

New Representatives Join City Council

Three new City Council representatives were elected in November. One was sworn into office in November and the other two will take office in January.

Laura Roussell, Second Ward



Laura Roussell was elected as Second Ward representative on the City Council and will be sworn into office on Jan. 6, 2020.

She is a Dubuque native and has served on the Dubuque Zoning Advisory

Commission and Resilient Community Advisory Commission. Laura is also a board member for Operation New View Community Action Agency and member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Dubuque. She is also the founder and current president of Dubuque Trees Forever and a member of the Women's Leadership Network. Additional past civic involvement includes the Dubuque Chamber Business Advocacy Committee, Dubuque Business Leader Equity Cohort, Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, Northeast Iowa School of Music (NISOM), the Almost Home Homeless Shelter board, and the Dubuque Energy District Board.

Laura earned a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in business administration from Clarke University. She recently retired as the senior community affairs manager at Black Hills Energy in Dubuque.

She can be reached at 563.690.6506 and lrroussell@cityofdubuque.org. Laura resides at 3224 Bittersweet Lane with her husband Jon Roussell. They are parents to an adult son.

Danny Sprank, Third Ward



Danny Sprank was elected as Third Ward representative on the City Council and filled that vacant seat in November.

A native of Bellevue, Danny has lived in Dubuque since 2005. He is a North End Neighborhood Association board member, has completed the Dubuque Police Department's Citizen Police Academy, and is head trustee and a choir member for First Congregational United Church of Christ in Dubuque.

Danny has worked at Giese Roofing Company in Dubuque since 2006 and is currently a project manager/estimator. He attended Northeast Iowa Community College and earned a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Dubuque.

Danny can be reached at 563.690.6507 or dsprank@cityofdubuque.org. He resides at 2473 Jackson Street with his husband Chuck Harris.

Brad Cavanagh, Fourth Ward



Brad Cavanagh was elected as Fourth Ward representative on the City Council and will be sworn into office on Jan. 6, 2020.

Brad is a Dubuque native and was a member of the Dubuque Housing Commission. He also served as vice chairman of the Dubuque County Food Policy Council, was a board member for the Fountain of Youth, and is a co-founder of Resources Unite.

Brad has worked as an associate professor of social work at Loras College since 2010. His

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previous professional experience includes working as a mental health counselor for Crossroads Counseling Center and psychotherapist and operations manager for Pathways for Aging. He holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in social work from St. Louis University.

He can be reached at 563.690.6508 and bcavanagh@cityofdubuque.org. Brad and his wife, Jennifer Cavanagh, reside at 565 Fenelon Place with their two sons.

The City Council meets at 6 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. The meetings are open to the public and held in the City Council Chambers on the third floor of the Historic Federal Building at 350 W. Sixth St. Meetings are broadcasted live on CityChannel Dubuque (Mediacom channels 8 and 117.2) and on the City's Facebook page (facebook.com/CityOfDubuque) and streamed live and archived at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://cityofdubuque.org/media).

Contact information for all City Council members is available at www.cityofdubuque.org/citycouncil. Unsure of in which city council ward you live? Find out at www.cityofdubuque.org/wards. §

Census Day is April 1, 2020 - Let's Make it Count!

Did you know that almost \$9 billion in federal funds is allocated annually to the state of Iowa and its cities and counties based on U.S. Census data? This data also guides the Dubuque City Council and other local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, like where to build new roads, schools, and where to focus resources. In addition, census data affects Iowa's collective voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is very important for us locally to take responsibility for the Census, as our local funding is impacted, based on our population from the Census every 10 years. You can help by making sure to complete the Census form that you will receive in the mail beginning in March of 2020. For more information please contact the Planning Services Department at 563-589-4210 or visit www.2020.census.gov. §

United States Census 2020

Fiscal Year 2021

BUDGET INPUT

Share your ideas!



The City values feedback provided by residents!

News & Events from the Arts & Cultural Affairs Office

Mark your calendars for Dubuque's annual Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival brought to you by the Dubuque Museum of Art, in partnership with the City of Dubuque and Winterfun, Inc. Sculpting will take place February 5-8, in Washington Park with six teams competing to win the Iowa title and the opportunity to move onto the 2021 U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition in Lake Geneva, WI.

The public is invited to observe the sculptors Wednesday through noon on Saturday as they turn 288 cubic feet of snow into works of art. A free, family-friendly community event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, from noon - 4 p.m. in the park and the lobby of the Dubuque Museum of Art where all ages can enjoy warm beverages, purchase food, and try their hand at sculpting snow the way the pros do it!

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/artsandculture, www.dbqart.org, or follow the Office of Arts and Culture Affairs and the Dubuque Museum of Art on Facebook.



Special Projects and Operating Support Grants

Since 2005, the City of Dubuque has invested \$3.9 million in financial support to Dubuque's arts and cultural organizations in the form of Operating Support grants and funding for Special Projects. These grant programs are critical components to nurturing the social and cultural vibrancy of Dubuque; applications for the next cycle of funding will be made available on Jan. 31.

Operating Support is available to established 501(C)3 arts and culture organizations located in the city of Dubuque that primarily serve Dubuque with year-round arts and culture events, programs, and services. Operating Support requests will be due by 11:59 p.m. on March 15.

Special Project grants seek to fund new artistic, creative projects that focus on diverse and inclusive community engagement. Special Project funds are available to Dubuque-based 501(c)(3)'s, organizations under the fiscal sponsorship of another 501(c)(3), or an organized group acting as a non-profit. Applicants may be a non-arts entity pursuing an arts and cultural related project to engage and better their community. Special Project requests will be due by 11:59 p.m. on April 15.

For more information visit www.cityofdubuque.org/artsandculture or contact Jenni Petersen-Brant, arts and cultural affairs coordinator, at jbrant@cityofdubuque.org. §

Here's how you can share your ideas:

- 1 Attend a budget public meeting in March
- 2 Use the Balancing Act budget simulator at www.cityofdubuque.org/budget to submit your thoughts on the City's budget

For more information, call 563-589-4398

Fountain of Youth Connecting Participants to Local Resources

Fountain of Youth's mission is to change the mindsets that contribute to generational poverty. They offer personalized, one-on-one programming and peer support and connect participants to key resources. Participants are assisted with: finding and keeping employment, criminal matters, criminal thinking and recidivism, transportation issues, homelessness, reconnecting with family, successfully transitioning back into society, and healthy community engagement.

Participants must be 16 or older, live in the Dubuque area, with income at or below 200% of the U.S. federal poverty line, and must want to improve themselves and/or their situation.

Fountain of Youth also connects with other community resources to increase personal development for its participants and educates and engages key influencers who are not in poverty to change their mindset regarding generational poverty.

This non-profit organization receives operational funding from the City of Dubuque's Community Development Block Grant Program. For more information, call 563-587-8316, visit www.thefountainofyouthprogram.org, or connect on Facebook. §



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The New Normal?

According to scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information, wet conditions from July 2018 through June 2019 resulted in a new 12-month precipitation record in the U.S., with an average of 37.86 inches (almost 8 inches above average). June was the third consecutive time in 2019 (April, May and June) that the past 12-month precipitation record was broken.

Locally, Dubuque normally receives 36 inches of rain annually but our weather has not been "normal" lately. According to the National Weather Service, Dubuque received nearly 53 inches of rain through late November in 2019. This marks the second consecutive year Dubuque received at least 50 inches of rain.

If you consider an 18-month comparison (May 2018 – October 2019), Dubuque received over 95 inches of rain making it the wettest 18-month period on record for Dubuque. Based on 30 years of measurements, Dubuque usually receives just under 60 inches during that 18-month period. That's nearly an extra year's worth of rain in 18 months!

Dubuque also experienced the second-wettest September on record in 2019 when 13.31

inches of precipitation fell over the city. That is second only to the record rainfall of 15.46 inches in September of 1965.

In June 2019, according to data from NOAA, Iowa set the record for rainfall and snow in a 12-month period since official records began in 1895. Relatedly, the Mississippi River spent a record 86 days above flood stage in Dubuque, from March 20 to June 13. The previous record was just 37 days and was set in 2001.

The Bee Branch Works!

Climate change is impacting cities around the country and the world in different ways. Some cities are taking steps to be more resilient to these effects, including Dubuque.

Even though it is not yet completed, the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project is functioning as designed and is protecting Dubuque residents and businesses from flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall. The

Bee Branch infrastructure improvements are providing incremental benefits. As each phase of construction is completed, Dubuque is seeing greater flash flood protection.

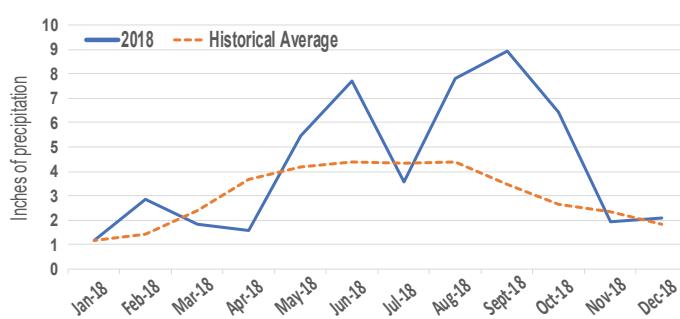
Despite record-setting rainfall, very few properties have experienced flood damage since the completion of the Bee Branch Creek Restoration in 2017. Previously, residents and businesses in the watershed would have experienced devastating flash flooding during this record setting year. The City would have received widespread reports of flooding and hundreds of basements filled with water but, due to improvements made throughout the watershed, there have been only minimal reports of damage.

The Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts Project is under construction and is a critical phase of the overall flood mitigation project. It involves using micro-tunneling methods to install six, 8-foot diameter culverts under the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks which are located between the two sections of the Bee Branch Creek. Adding this additional capacity will allow stormwater to drain more efficiently from the upper portion of the creek to the lower. Once completed, it will increase the flood mitigation system's capacity to protect the area from a 75-year rain event to a 500-year rain event.

The Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project is a long-term investment and there is more work to be done but it is working and will continue to do so for generations to come. This \$232 million project became a reality because the Mayor and City Council listened to the needs of residents and businesses and chose to invest in the community. §

2018 Monthly Precipitation vs. Historical Average (1851-2019)

Source: US Dept. of Agriculture/US Dept. of Commerce Weather Bureau and NOAA



City and AmeriCorps Celebrate Partnership

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the City of Dubuque's AmeriCorps Partners in Learning Program and the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps. In Dubuque, AmeriCorps Partners in Learning has over 800 alumni that have contributed over 450,000 hours of service to the Dubuque community in the last 20 years. Since AmeriCorps program's inception in 1994, more than one million Americans have served nationally, providing more than 1.5 billion hours

of service and earned more than \$3.6 billion in education scholarships, more than \$1 billion of which has been used to pay back student debt. Here in Dubuque and nationally, AmeriCorps members have played a critical role in the recovery of communities affected by disasters and helped thousands of first generation college students access higher education. They also tutor and mentor young people, connect veterans to jobs, care for seniors, reduce crime and revive



CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
2000-2020

City of Dubuque

cities, fight the opioid epidemic, and meet other critical needs. Those interested in serving with AmeriCorps Partners in Learning, can visit www.cityofdubuque.org/AmeriCorps. §



Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Monday, January 20

Grand River Center, 500 Bell Street

7:00 a.m. breakfast – 7:30 a.m. celebration

Keynote Speaker: Soong-Chan Rah, D.Min, Th.D.

Registration: www.dbqschools.org/facesandvoices

New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Adriene Alford - Transit

Collins Eboh - Human Rights

Cody Funk - Finance

Bryan Gawlik - Parking

Ian Hatch -

Economic Development

Kimberly Meyer - Transit

Susan Oberhoffer - Transit

Mark Pauley - Transit

Crystal Ring - Parking

Audra Runde - Library

Danny Sprank - City Council

Schanel Steil - Transit

Josephine Wilant - Library

The City of Dubuque congratulates this recent retiree:

Bob Grierson - Airport

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

Housing Commission **Long Range Planning**
Suzanne Stroud **Advisory Commission**

John Krayer

Human Rights **Transit Advisory Board**
Commission **Luanna Gerdemann**
Kathy McCarthy

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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:

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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.

January

1 City offices closed for New Year's Day.

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

6-17 Merry Mulch Program: Tree Recycling Program and Yard Waste Collection. See below or call 589-4250 for details.

20 City offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Monday's curbside collection will occur instead on Saturday, Jan. 18.

20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Breakfast, 7 a.m. Grand River Center. Pre-registration required at www.dbqschools.org/facesandvoices.

21 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

February

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

17 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 to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.

Citizen's Police Academy Coming Soon

The Dubuque Police Department will hold the 24th annual Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) from Feb. 13 - April 16. The purpose of this program is to build a better understanding between citizens and police through education. The CPA is a 10-week program with all classes taught by law enforcement professionals and other members of the criminal justice system. Each session covers a variety of topics, including arrest procedures, search and seizure, use of force, laws and policies, police procedures, domestic abuse cases, sexual abuse cases, drug enforcement, OWIs, officer safety, and prevention programs. The CPA does not certify participants as law enforcement officers. Requirements for participation:

- Attendees must live within the Dubuque city limits
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- No felony convictions
- No significant arrest history



Applications are due Jan. 24 and can be found at www.cityofdubuque.org/police. Follow Dubuque Police on Facebook and Twitter and sign up to receive police department news at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme. For more information on the CPA, contact Captain Scott Crabil, 563-589-4422, or Lieutenant Steve Olson, 563-589-4454. §



Holiday Curbside Collection Schedule:

- New Year's Eve (Tues., Dec. 31): No change
- New Year's Day (Wed., Jan. 1): Collected on Sat., Jan. 4
- Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (Mon., Jan. 20): Collected on Sat., Jan. 18

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. 6 - 17 on regular collection days. A City brush tie or yard waste sticker is required.