

CITYnews

THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

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| JULY/AUGUST 2020



STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Roy D. Buol
Summer 2020

As this publication is printed on Friday, June 5, the events unfolding around the country are not just a response to the tragedy of George Floyd's death at the hands of law enforcement in Minneapolis. That murder is, sadly, the latest in a long list of injustices experienced daily by people of color around the United States.

We, in Dubuque, like so many around the country, are struggling with emotions and question on how to best advance racial equity and reduce racial disparities here and around our nation.

We must first acknowledge that incidents of police brutality and other acts of oppression and harm that occur hundreds of miles away do have local impacts. Those incidents, while not representative of the majority of individual law enforcement officers, create mistrust, fear, sadness, and anger locally.

We also know that we are not perfect. I want to remind our residents that the City of Dubuque takes police misconduct seriously and we have a forum for complaints against the Dubuque Police Department. This forum, facilitated by the Community-Police Relations Committee, exists through a memorandum of understanding between the City of Dubuque and the Dubuque Branch of the NAACP and includes community members of diverse backgrounds. Anyone with concerns can contact the Human Rights Department at 563-589-4190 for more information or for support in filing a complaint.

As mayor and on behalf of my city council colleagues, I want all Dubuque residents, especially our black and brown residents, to know that we hear you, we see you, and we care about each of you. We recognize that you face daily challenges that most of us do not realize or even understand, but we must listen and seek to understand if we are to create an environment of mutual respect and trust.

This is the crux of the "Black Lives Matter" movement – not a denial that all lives matter, it is that for too long Black lives have not experienced the same care for their lives that many of us take for granted every day.

I also want to acknowledge the peaceful protests and rallies that were held in Dubuque in late May and early June. The conduct of those groups and involvement of local law enforcement was exemplary and showed how engaged residents can come together and effectively make their voices heard, both peacefully and powerfully, in a time of extreme pain, crisis, and anger.

The Dubuque City Council made the conscious decision to include the word "equity" in the City's Vision and Mission Statements. We are committed to continued dialogue and action. We are committed to acknowledging, to listening, and responding to our community members' thoughts on what our community needs to heal, what it needs to meet the needs of our families, and finally, to develop the best ways to work together

to create the long-term actions that will benefit the Dubuque community.

We also are committed to the actions underway to disrupt racism and to promote equity and inclusion in our community. These include continued support of partnerships and initiatives like Inclusive Dubuque, the Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan, City staff efforts to create equity plans specific to the services each department offers, supporting the Police Chief's Forum, and continuing intercultural competency training for all City employees.

The City Council also recognizes and invites the varying perspectives of residents to make equitable and inclusive decisions. We encourage community members of color to reach out to us directly. For people interested in a more direct role within government, please consider applying for work with the City of Dubuque, serving on a City board or commission, or running for elected office.

The City of Dubuque will continue to pursue our vision to make Dubuque a "sustainable and resilient city and an inclusive and equitable community" and we will support the Dubuque Police Department's mission to enhance community livability by providing equitable community service and protection through integrity, compassion, and competence.

We must all commit ourselves to acknowledging and responding to the challenges facing our community, state, and nation. §

City Facility Closures and Service Updates

The City of Dubuque extended building closures to the public through July 5, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. City services to the public are still operational and available either online or via phone or email.

Departments are making efforts to ensure minimal disruption to public services during this time. City officials will continue to evaluate safety and public service needs. Please visit www.cityofdubuque.org for the most current information on City schedule modifications and closures.

Closed facilities/offices include:

- City Hall (50 West 13th St.)
- City Hall Annex (1300 Main St.)
- Housing and Community Development Department (350 West 6th St., Suite 312)
- Intermodal Transportation Center (950 Elm St.)
- Leisure Services Department (2200 Bunker Hill Rd.)
- Multicultural Family Center (1157 Central Ave.)
- Municipal Services Center (925 Kerper Ct.)

This extension of closures does NOT apply to the following facilities, which are open with safety protocols in place:

- Bunker Hill Golf Course
- Miller Riverview Park & Campground
- Port of Dubuque Marina Docks

Parking Meters: Parking meter enforcement and enforcement of all parking regulations resumed on June 1.

Parking Ramps and Lots: All parking fees associated with City-owned parking lots and ramps are suspended until July 1. Monthly parking fees for City lots and ramps, as well as hourly and daily parking ramp and lot fees, are covered by this suspension.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/Parking or call 563.589.4341.

Utility Billing payment options during this period continue to include:

- Payments may be made online at www.cityofdubuque.org/payment.
- Payments can also be made by phone 24/7 by calling 563.589.4144 and selecting option #1. E-check payments will have no fee. Credit cards will have a transaction fee.
- Checks can be mailed to: Utility Billing, City Hall, 50 W. 13th St., Dubuque, IA 52001.
- At drop boxes located outside the 13th St. entrance City Hall (please do not put cash in the drop box).

Payment of utility bills is still required but the City of Dubuque has temporarily suspended late fees, disconnection notices, and water shut-offs on past due utility bills. See details on the new reduced City utility fee program on page 3.

For more information, contact Utility Billing at 563.589.4144 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling.

Yard Waste Stickers/Annual Decals will not be available to purchase at City Hall until at least July 6 but are still available for purchase at most Dubuque hardware and grocery stores. Annual yard stickers can be purchased online at www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling or by phone at 563.589.4144 and will be sent out by mail.

Parking Tickets can be paid online at www.cityofdubuque.org/payment, dropped off at the City Hall drop box at 50 West 13th St. or Intermodal Transportation Center drop box at 950 Elm St., or paid by credit card over the phone at 563.589.4144.

The Jule has suspended fares through the month of June. Hours of service and routes have been modified. For more information, visit www.juletransit.org or call 563.589.4196.

Do Your Part

Please do your part to help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- When in out in public, practice social distancing of 6-10 feet from others who are not part of your household.
- Wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home and self-isolate if ill.

Community Support & Recovery

Resources are available for individuals, families, and businesses impacted financially, physically, and emotionally by the pandemic. Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/covid19support for details. For general assistance with food, bills, etc., please call 2-1-1 from a landline or 800.244.7431 from a cell phone, or text your zip code to 898211.

Businesses/employers should call the COVID-19 Business Helpline at 563.588.3350.

Rent & Mortgage Assistance Programs

The State of Iowa developed a new program to provide short-term relief to income-eligible renters and homeowners who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure due to a documented COVID-19 related loss of income. The COVID-19 Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority. To apply, for more information on eligibility, visit www.iowafinance.com/covid-19-iowa-eviction-and-foreclosure-prevention-program/ or call 855-300-5885

The City of Dubuque is offering financial assistance to qualified Dubuque renters and homeowners whose income has been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are being accepted for the City's Short-Term Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program from Dubuque residents who live in a rental property or own a home and whose income has been reduced due to COVID-19. This program is funded by a federal grant and has income and property eligibility requirements. This is a short-term assistance program and can assist with a portion of approved households' rent or mortgage for up to \$1,000 for three months. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/housing or call 563.589.4230.

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Utility Billing News

Utility Billing Department Layout

The City of Dubuque Utility Billing Department has undergone a remodel that updates waiting areas for those paying utility bills and parking tickets. Upon the re-opening of City Hall, residents will notice an area for customers to enter and exit, waiting safely in line to access windows where staff will accept payments.



Reduced City Utility Fee Program Expanded

Effective July 1, 2020, the City will expand its reduced utility fee program for income-qualified residential customers to apply to all four utilities provided by the City: water, sanitary sewer, refuse collection, and stormwater.

The program previously covered refuse collection and stormwater fees but was expanded through the fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget adoption process. Residents who apply for and are approved for the program may receive a discount of up to 50 percent of the established base or minimum rate for each utility.

Applicants must be residents of Dubuque, be individually billed residential account holders/customers, provide proof of financial status or extreme hardship, and have an annual household income equal to or less than the income standards used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its rental assistance program. Those household size and income limits for 2020 are: 1 = \$29,050, 2 = \$33,200, 3 = \$37,350, 4 = \$41,450, 5 = \$44,800, 6 = \$48,100, 7 = \$51,400, and 8 = \$54,750.

The City reserves the right to limit the number and amounts of discounts based on the income of applicants, number of applicants, and budgeted/available funds. For more information, or to apply for this program, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling or call 563.589.4144. §



**AmeriCorps Partners in Learning
is hiring
Academic Reading Tutors
for the 2020-21 school year!**

- Work 1-on-1 with K-3rd grade students who are struggling readers.
- Pick your schedule and serve with us part-time 10-20 hours per week.
- Living stipends and education awards are available to all members.

Contact us at 563.690.6171 or
www.cityofdubuque.org/AmeriCorps



Parks & Recreational Amenities Updates

Our parks, green spaces, and recreation spaces matter now more than ever. Following state and public health guidelines and recommendations and other rules in place, the City opened some recreational amenities and facilities managed by the Leisure Services Department.

Status as of June 17:

- *Pet Park and Skate Parks* - Open
- *Outdoor Playgrounds* - Open
- *Tennis, Pickleball, and Horseshoe Courts* - Open
- *Miller Riverview Campground* - Open

- *Bunker Hill Golf Course* - Open
- *Port of Dubuque Marina* - Docks open
- *Park Pavilion Rentals* - Remain closed through at least July 6
- *Park Restrooms and Water Fountains* - Remain closed due to budget constraints and COVID-19 transmission
- *Basketball and Volleyball Courts* - Remain closed due to the governor's proclamation
- *Flora and Sutton Swimming Pools* - Closed for the 2020 season

For the most updated information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/leisureservices or call 563-589-4263. §

New Faces & Retirements

CALENDAR

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Jacob Baltierra - Finance/Budget
Jodie Cross - Transit
Mitchell Jensen - Airport
Brianna Kramer - Finance/Budget
Allan Larson - Parking
Sydney Moquin - Health Services
Teresa Putschio - Finance/Budget
Cassie Ross - Finance/Budget
Stephen Slade - Transit
Scott Smith - Transit

The City of Dubuque congratulates these recent retirees:

Craig Nowack - Cable TV
David Beaves - Fire
Kevin Schmitt - Fire
Laura Carstens - Planning Services
Diane Boardman - Parking

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

Building Code and
Advisory Appeals Board
George Cooley

Zoning Advisory
Commission
Matthew Mulligan

Historic Preservation
Commission
William Doyle

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 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
 ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org



2007-2012-2013
 2017-2019

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.

July

3 City offices closed for Independence Day (no change in trash/recycling collection)
 6 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
 20 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

August

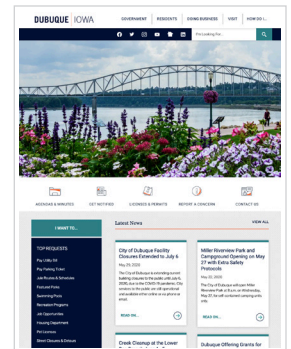
3 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
 7 Art on the River: Resilient Earth Opening, Mississippi Riverwalk, 5-7 p.m.
 17 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

At time of publication, all public meetings are being held virtually to abide by social distancing guidelines. For details, visit cityofdubuque.org/agendas or call 563.589.4120. City Council meetings are City Council meeting are aired live on CityChannel Dubuque (Mediacom channels 8 and 117.2) and streamed live and archived on the City's website at www.cityofdubuque.org/media, and streamed live on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofdubuque.

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.

City Website Gets a New Look

Have you noticed the new look on the City's website at www.cityofdubuque.org? A graphic redesign, launched in early June, features a clean, easy-to-read look with a focus on the user. The redesign features "I Want To..." and "Top Requests" on the homepage that will quickly direct users to the most requested information and online transactions. §

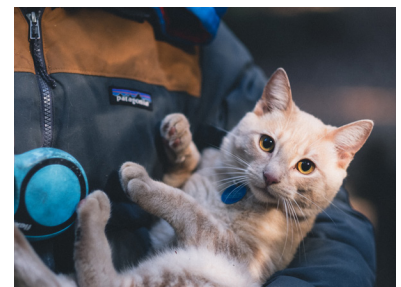


New Pet Licensing Fee

The approved FY2021 budget includes an increase in the price of a pet licenses. Effective July 1, 2020, the new fees are:

Spayed or neutered	\$14
Not spayed or neutered	\$34
Late fee	\$16
Replacement tags	\$5

Pet license fees support the Animal Control activity in the Health Services Department. The last time fees were increased was 2009. §



Art on the River Exhibit Opening

At time of publication, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Office intends to host the 2020 Art on the River: Resilient Earth exhibit opening on Friday, Aug. 7, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Mississippi Riverwalk and Grand River Center patio with additional virtual access options available. Subscribe to City of Dubuque Arts and Culture News at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme, follow ArtsandCultureDBQ on Facebook, or call 563.690.6059 for event and exhibition updates. §

