

CITYnews



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Local Healthcare Workers and Organizations Plead with Public to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

It will take the efforts of all in our community to overcome this pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is taking a major toll on healthcare workers and the healthcare system. Representatives from UnityPoint Health, Medical Associates, MercyOne, Crescent Community Health Center, Grand River Medical Group, and public health officials are urging Dubuquers to do what they can to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Capacity vs. Capability

While the number of hospital beds filled hasn't yet reached 100 percent, Dubuque's healthcare workers are overwhelmed. Chad Wolbers, President and CEO of UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital, said, "Many have said from the beginning of this pandemic that we're all in this together; that rings true now more than ever. We all need to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19 to help our healthcare heroes."

One of those healthcare heroes, ICU Nurse Cara Crumrine, decided it was time for her to use her voice to ask the public for help. "As an intensive care nurse at UnityPoint Health, I've seen fellow medical personnel in my life putting out scary memes and begging posts asking people to help them. I've seen other community members speak about how it's not right or fair to have government officials interfere in their livelihood. I've seen these comments, plus countless more, and decided it's time to speak up."

She went on to say, "I take care of patients who I regularly think aren't going to make it. I try to educate grief-stricken families on the phone when I don't know any answers. I hold the iPad, so the family can see their loved one. I intrude on the private moment where they say, 'I love you,' over and over and over amidst the sobs. I try to console the 30-year old who doesn't understand why his father

isn't going to survive COVID-19, because all he had was diabetes and high blood pressure.

"We need you. This pandemic is impacting us all, whether we get sick or not. Let's put aside our differences and work together – wear a mask, wash your hands, avoid gatherings – even small ones – and just stay home."

– *Cara Crumrine, RN, ICU nurse, UnityPoint Health*

"I urge you to influence and challenge your immediate circle. You can make a difference. Together, we can reduce the spread of COVID-19."

Kay Takes, President of MercyOne Dubuque Medical Center, said, "We need the public's help right now to change the direction of the pandemic in our community from what could be catastrophic, to one that is manageable."

Dr. Khwar Warraich of Grand River Medical Group added, "Unless we change the ways we are dealing with this pandemic as a community, things are likely to get way, way worse."

In a joint statement from the major healthcare organizations, they urge Dubuquers, "We must act now to lower the transmission rates. It is critical that we work together as a community to take the steps we know can reduce the spread of COVID-19. We continue to encourage community members to wear face coverings, maintain physical distancing, limit group gatherings and practice good hand hygiene and sanitizing to minimize the spread of the virus."

Hospitals and clinics are safe, and our

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providers are here to take care of you. It's important to keep routine appointments and seek treatment for acute medical conditions.

We need everyone to take this seriously to slow the spread. Together, we can protect ourselves, our families and our neighbors." §

Convalescent Plasma Needed!

"Convalescent plasma" is plasma that can be collected from those who have recovered from COVID-19. It is used to treat those currently suffering symptoms and local healthcare providers are experiencing a critical shortage of convalescent plasma. If you have recovered from COVID-19, please consider donating to help those who are fighting COVID.

Local Options for Plasma Donations

American Red Cross: Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or find the nearest donation center by visiting RedCrossBlood.org.

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center: Complete a self-referral form at bloodcenter.org/cp to see if you are eligible or call 833-610-1025.

Breitfelder Named City Clerk



The Dubuque City Council has named Adrienne Breitfelder as Dubuque's next city clerk. She replaced Kevin Firnstahl who retired on Oct. 30, after nearly 10 years as city clerk and over 21 years of employment with the City of Dubuque.

As city clerk, Breitfelder is responsible for administrative work in support of the activities of the city council and the Dubuque Civil Service Commission. The city clerk is the custodian of the official records of the city council. The work involves responsibility for the preparation of all items of business to come before the city council; preparing,

maintaining and attesting to the official records of actions taken by the city council in regular and special meetings; giving proper publicity to legal notices, adopted resolutions, ordinances, and city council minutes; and providing secretarial services to the city council.

The city clerk position, along with city attorney and city manager, is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the city council. Breitfelder's appointment followed a search and interview process.

Breitfelder holds a bachelor's degree in political science with minors in communication and information technology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She was employed by IBM in

Dubuque since 2013 and was most recently a program manager. Previous positions with IBM include customer facing audit team lead, transition manager, service request coordinator, and quality improvement coordinator. Her roles with IBM required and involved project management, customer service, compliance review, workflow documentation and security, and regulatory knowledge.

Breitfelder's volunteer experience includes serving on the Dubuque Human Rights Commission since 2016 including time as vice chair; being a member of the Dubuque Jaycees since 2013 including time as a board member and directing IBM's STEM Camp for middle school students. §

Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Returns

Mark your calendars for Dubuque's annual Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival and Competition brought to you by the Dubuque Museum of Art, in partnership with the City of Dubuque and Winterfun, Inc. Sculpting will take place February 10-13 in Washington Park with teams competing to win the Iowa title and the opportunity to move onto the 2022 U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition in Lake Geneva, WI.



The public is invited to visit Washington Park Wednesday through noon on Saturday as each team turns their block of 288 cubic feet of snow into a work of art. Due to COVID-19 concerns, in lieu of the family-event that is typically held on Saturday afternoon, the public is encouraged to view the completed sculptures from the safety of their vehicles or social distanced on foot. People's choice voting will be conducted online on Saturday, February 13.

Interviews with the sculptors and at-home snow sculpting activities will be shared throughout the week on social media on the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs' and the Dubuque Museum of Arts' Facebook pages. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/winterarts or www.dbqart.org. §

Odd/Even Snow Route Parking Reminder



The City of Dubuque's odd/even snow route parking policy affects 34 miles of Dubuque's most heavily traveled streets. The snow route parking policy allows crews to plow the streets more effectively, improve

driving conditions, and provide better on-street parking.

When activated, the policy requires odd/even parking along the designated routes. When

in effect, parking is prohibited on the **even-numbered** side of the streets on the **even** days of the month, and on the **odd-numbered** side of the streets on the **odd** days of the month. The parking restrictions are enforced from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. or 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Implementation/enforcement of the odd/even snow route parking policy will be announced at least six hours in advance through area news media, including CityChannel Dubuque (117.2 and 8 on the Mediacom cable system.)

Fiscal Year 2022
BUDGET INPUT SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

The City values feedback provided by residents!

Here's how you can share your ideas:

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

*meeting schedule available on the City of Dubuque's Facebook page or at www.cityofdubuque.org/budget

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 563-589-4398

It is also posted on the City's website and social media channels. Vehicles violating the restrictions will be ticketed and fined \$30.

Request to receive an email or text notification whenever implementation of this policy is announced at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme.

For additional information regarding Dubuque's snow route parking policy, contact Public Works at 563.589.4250 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/snow. §



STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Roy D. Buol

Winter 2021

As we prepare to “turn the page” on 2020, and with the encouraging reports on the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, I am optimistic about the “light at the end of the tunnel.” Yet, as we envision the gradual return to “normalcy,” it is incumbent upon us to remember lessons learned that will help us to collectively and actively participate in shaping a new and better “normal” for our citizens.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our “normal” way of life and ravaged our economy, too many Americans...Iowans... Dubuquers were living in poverty. The pandemic has made life incredibly challenging for those who were already struggling in their daily lives.

The most current data available from the US Census indicates that 16% of our Dubuque residents live in poverty. That is approximately **one out of every six** Dubuquers ...a significantly higher number than realized in the average poverty rate of 11.2% across the state of Iowa.

In August 2018, during the City Council’s annual goal-setting session, the policy agenda identified six top priorities, with one being the design and implementation of an **Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan** to reduce, alleviate, and, ultimately, prevent poverty in our community. Data is the foundation for most successful plans and this plan will utilize disaggregated data by race and ethnicity and other factors to assist with examining poverty in Dubuque with an equity lens.

For example, Dubuque’s population consists of 84.3% White residents, followed by 3.8% African Americans, 1.9% two or more races, and 1.8% Hispanics.

However, when the citywide poverty data is disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the statistics tell a different story. This lens identifies that 56% of our African American residents live below the poverty line...significantly higher than the national average of 22.5%.

Over 22% of Hispanic residents live below the poverty line, also higher than the national average of 18.8%. The nearly 13% percent of White Dubuque residents who live below the poverty line is higher than the national average of 10.9%.

In 2019, a consultant was selected to assist in the development of the **Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan** and has been working with a core group of City staff and, importantly, a larger project steering committee drawn from community agencies and non-profits working with people in poverty. The extensive research, community engagement, and community planning phases of the

plan’s development have now been completed.

A draft of this plan will be presented at a City Council work session in January 2021. It is anticipated to consist of multiple components including: (1) defining and understanding poverty; (2) the state of poverty in Dubuque; (3) methodology with regards to research and community engagement; (4) overview of determinants that lead/cause poverty; (5) results of community engagement; and (6) best practices to consider to address poverty.

Of significance to the **Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan** is to avoid the traditional poverty narratives including implicit racial and gender stereotypes, victimizing, and blaming people in poverty, and politicizing the issue of poverty. We must recognize the astounding resilience that our neighbors with limited incomes demonstrate day after day. This is not a plan to address a lack in people - it is a plan that focuses squarely on providing the support and opportunities for all people to thrive.

Following the adoption of the final version of the **Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan** at a subsequent City Council meeting, the plan’s implementation will further engage residents and collaboration with members of the community, businesses, business organizations, financial institutions, anchor institutions, government, non-profits, philanthropists, faith and school leaders,

and community members who are living with or have lived with the stresses of poverty. The process will continue to examine existing programs for success over time by analyzing data, identifying trends and best practices through an equity lens with creation of annual performance measurements to track progress toward desired outcomes in five years.

As with every successful plan for community improvement in Dubuque, engaging our residents and stakeholders is essential. I invite everyone to watch for additional information on how to become an active participant in ensuring that Dubuque’s “new normal” supports a shared vision that is equitable, healthy, and sustainable for all our residents. Thank you! \$

**Do you need help with your
RENT, MORTGAGE, or UTILITIES?**

**Financial assistance and payment plans are
available through the City of Dubuque**

WE ARE HERE TO HELP. CALL TODAY! 563.589.4144

New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Sarah Berna - AmeriCorps

Jason Bickal - Library

Adrienne Breitfelder -

City Clerk

Yara Lopez - Recreation

Reese Meyer - Airport

Christian Molosz - Airport

Miranda Onofre -

Emergency Communications

Justin Strub - Airport

The City of Dubuque congratulates this recent retiree:

Jerelyn O'Connor - City Manager's Office

City Seeks Volunteer Board & Commission Members

Boards and commissions play an important role in city government. Service on a board or commission is an excellent way for residents to become involved in the community and contribute to the quality of life in Dubuque. They serve as the voice of the residents, assist in the development of policy recommendations to the City Council, provide positive support to City staff, and promote the City and its programs.

There are currently vacancies on many of Dubuque's boards and commissions. Boards and commissions are currently meeting virtually, so you it's easy to join from the comfort of your home!

To learn about current openings and information on how to apply, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/boards or call the City Clerk's Office at 563-589-4120. §

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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:

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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.

CALENDAR

January

- 1 City offices closed for New Year's Day.
- 4 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting*
- 4-15 Merry Mulch Program: Tree Recycling Program and Yard Waste Collection. See below or call 589-4250 for details.
- 18 City offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Monday's curbside collection will occur instead on Saturday, Jan. 16.
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Video Celebration, 7:30 a.m. Information below.
- 19 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting*

February

- 1 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting*
- 5 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting*
- 10-13 Winter Arts Snow Sculpting - Details at www.cityofdubuque.org/winterarts

*At time of publication, all public meetings are being held virtually to abide by social distancing guidelines. For details on participating in these virtual meetings, visit www.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.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Video Celebration

Monday, January 18, 2021 7:30 - 8:30 A.M.



In celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, and in lieu of the annual birthday breakfast and program at the Grand River Center, faces&voices is hosting a video celebration from the Multicultural Family Center. Join as Rev. Tim Bees interviews select past recipients of the Ruby Sutton Award (formerly NAACP First Humanitarian Award) on their thoughts on diversity issues in our community.

The event is free and no registration is required. More information to join the virtual video celebration is available at www.dbschools.org/district/community/facesandvoices/ and the Multicultural Family Center website at www.mfcdbq.org. §

Winter Reminders from Public Works

Holiday Curbside Collection Schedule:

- New Year's Eve (Thurs., Dec. 31): No change
- New Year's Day (Fri., Jan. 1): Collected on Sat., Jan. 2
- Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (Mon., Jan. 18): Collected on Sat., Jan. 16

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. 4 - 15 on regular collection days. A City brush tie or yard waste sticker is required.

Recycle Unwanted Holiday Lights: The Public Works Department and the Dubuque Metropolitan Solid Waste Agency are offering a drop off location for residents to recycle unwanted holiday lights. Drop lights off in marked containers outside the City of Dubuque Municipal Services Center at 925 Kerper Court through January 15. For questions, please call 563-589-4250. §