

CITYnews



VOL. 19 ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2021

COVID-19 Vaccines: Our Best Shot to End the Pandemic

Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 when you are eligible is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, to get our community and country back to normal, and to restore and protect our economy.

Wearing masks, social distancing, frequent hand washing, and staying home when ill help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. This combination of getting vaccinated and following recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

How and when can I get vaccinated?

Vaccinations are being given first to priority groups decided by the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health. Iowans age 65 and over, as well as some designated high-risk populations, are eligible to be vaccinated now and will be contacted by their healthcare provider when they can schedule an appointment to be vaccinated. Vaccine supplies are extremely limited and will determine how quickly this phase of vaccinations will be completed.

As vaccine supplies increase over the coming weeks and months, additional groups will be prioritized for vaccination in phases. Vaccinations will be free and are expected to be available to all adults at healthcare providers, pharmacies, and vaccination clinics when supplies increase. Updates on vaccine availability will be



DUBUQUE COUNTY

www.dubuquecounty.org/covid19

widely shared through local media, at www.cityofdubuque.org/COVID19, or by calling 563.556.6200.

Are the vaccines safe?

COVID-19 vaccines meet the same safety standards as all other vaccines and have been tested extensively in the laboratory and with humans to ensure their safety. Tens of thousands of Americans participated in clinical trials to test how the vaccines protect and affect people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as people with different medical conditions.

As of February 1, more than 30 million doses of the vaccines have been administered to Americans. Most people do not have serious problems after being vaccinated but some have reported a headache, body aches, or fever. These side effects usually go away on their own within a few days and are a sign their immune systems are doing what they are supposed to do: working and building up protection. The possibility of having an allergic reaction is rare and extremely small.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | 2 | Dubuque Initiatives Offers Business Loan Program
Residents May Be Eligible for Refund with Earned Income Tax Credit
FY2022 Budget Public Input Schedule
Regular Curbside Food Scraps Collections Resume
Sustainability Grant Applications Available
- | 3 | City Manager's Message
- | 4 | New Faces and Retirements Calendar
Interactive Maps Assist Property Owners, Buyers, and Sellers
Additional Glass Drop-Off Location
Outdoor Winter Fun in Dubuque

How do the vaccines work?

The vaccines already in use and under development help protect you from the virus by creating an antibody response -- "teaching" our immune systems to recognize and fight the virus. These mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19 so you cannot get COVID from the vaccine.

I've recovered from COVID-19. Do I still need to be vaccinated?
Yes, even if you have had COVID and recovered, you should still get vaccinated. About 10% of people who were infected with COVID develop a weak antibody response that wears off in approximately 90 days and they could be reinfected. We can't predict who will fall into this spectrum of weak antibody responses, but the milder your previous COVID infection, the more likely you developed a weaker antibody response. Vaccines would protect you and give you the optimal antibody response. §

Sleeves Up! Protect yourself, your family, and your community.

Dubuque Initiatives Offers Loan Program to Help Dubuque Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

Dubuque Initiatives has partnered with the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) and the COVID-19 Business Helpline to relaunch the Dubuque Initiatives Loan Program.



The program authorizes the use of \$500,000 of Dubuque Initiatives' funds to provide loans to small businesses existing in the city of Dubuque. Completed applications will be processed within 48 hours, providing our local employers critical funding to weather the storm.

Loans of \$10,000 would be repaid over a three-year period at 1% interest. No

interest or fees would be charged to the applicant for the first 6 months after disbursement.

Applicant Requirements:

- Employ 1-50 employees (Sole proprietors are eligible)
- Have a physical location or storefront within the city of Dubuque
- Businesses that previously received a loan through this program and non-profits are eligible to apply.

To apply:

Call the COVID-19 Business Helpline at (563) 588-3350 between 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email at sbhelpline@nicc.edu.

Helpline experts will review available local, state and federal assistance programs, including the Dubuque Initiatives Loan Program, and what information applicants will need to have prepared. §

Residents May Be Eligible for Refund with Earned Income Tax Credit

Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) can assist residents in determining if they are eligible for up to a \$6,600 refund with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is for anyone who worked at any time in 2020 and refunds vary depending on number of eligible children and income.

HACAP offers free tax preparation through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Don't leave your money on the table this tax season; you may have earned more than you think! Visit www.hacap.org or call 563-556-5130 for more information. §

Regular Yard Debris and Food Scrap Collection Resumes

Regular yard debris and food scrap collection for current subscribers starts Monday, April 5. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 563-589-4250 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste §

Sustainable Dubuque Community Grants Available

Sustainable Dubuque Community Grant applications are being accepted until March 15. Grants for up to \$2,500 to assist non-profits, businesses, clubs, organizations, and groups of passionate residents in implementing their ideas to make Dubuque a more sustainable place and to support community leadership in the Sustainable Dubuque initiative.

Grants may be awarded to any group of individuals to implement a project that helps to achieve the Sustainable Dubuque vision and includes a component of community education and/or engagement. We encourage new groups or individuals to use this funding!

Review the grant guidelines, application form and scoring rubric at www.cityofdubuque.org/sustainability or call 563.690.6038. §

Fiscal Year 2022 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 are held virtually to abide by social distancing guidelines. For details on participating in these virtual meetings, visit cityofdubuque.org/agendas or call 563.589.4120. City Council meetings 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.

Date	Meeting Topics
Mon., March 1 - 6:30 p.m.	Recommended FY2022 Budget Document Presentation to City Council at Regular City Council Meeting
Wed., March 3 - 6:30 p.m.	Information Services, City Attorney's Office, City Clerk, Human Resources, Public Information Office, City Manager's Office, City Council, Media Services
Thurs., March 4 - 6:30 p.m.	Health Services, Human Rights, Library, Airport, Finance/Budget
Mon., March 8 - 6:30 p.m.	Housing & Community Development, Planning, Economic Development, Transportation Services
Tues., March 9 - 6:30 p.m.	Purchase of Services, Five Flags Civic Center, Grand River Center, Parks, Recreation
Wed., March 11 - 6:30 p.m.	Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, Police, Fire
Mon., March 22 - 6:30 p.m.	Water, Water & Resource Recovery Center, Public Works, Engineering
Wed., March 24 - 6:30 p.m.	Public Hearing to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

The recommended budget materials will be placed on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget webpage at www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2022budget on Feb. 26, and will be available at the Reference Desk at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library at 360 W. 11th St. For additional information, call 563-589-4110.



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The Dubuque Police Department recently completed its compilation report of crimes for calendar year 2020.

“Confirmed Shots Fired” is one of the many metrics tracked by the police department annually. In 2020, there were 17 instances of confirmed shots fired in Dubuque, an increase of one over 2019’s total of 16 and down significantly from 2015’s total of 33. Of last year’s 17 cases, an arrest of at least one individual was made in 9 of those cases thanks in large part to exceptional police work with the assistance of Dubuque’s network of traffic/security cameras. The unresolved cases remain open with viable suspects identified in several.

While a single murder or instance of confirmed shots fired is too many,

Dubuque’s totals are lower than many other communities (see *Table 1* below.)

When comparing Dubuque’s “Part I” crime totals for 2020 to 2015, Dubuque has had a 32% reduction in overall crime. A comparison of 2020 versus 2019 shows the total number of crimes rose by just three crimes, from 1,509 to 1,512.

The police department’s annual crime report is shared with the FBI and includes “Part I Crimes” in two categories: Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Property (see *Table 2* below.)

The number of **Crimes Against Persons** in Dubuque in 2020 rose 40.5% from 2019 to a total of 267, including one murder, 105 sexual

assaults, 26 robberies, and 135 aggravated assaults.

While it is impossible to prevent some crimes from occurring, it is important to know that the Dubuque Police Department excels in solving crimes. In 2020, the Dubuque Police resolved 92.3% of all Crimes Against Persons committed in the city. The national average for 2019 (the most current on record via FBI data) was 45.4%.

The number of **Crimes Against Property** declined 5.6% from 2019 to a total of 1,245, including 219 burglaries, 148 burglaries to motor vehicle, 808 thefts, and 70 thefts of motor vehicles.

The goal of the City’s approach to public safety is to make Dubuque the safest community possible with the understanding that community safety is not just about injury prevention and crime prevention; it is about increasing well-being and building a vibrant, engaged, and equitable community.

Working to ensure residents experience an increased sense of well-being, a sustainable quality of life, a reduction in the numbers and cost of injuries, the preservation of income and assets, and improved perceptions of safety is a top priority for Dubuque city government. §

Table 1

	Confirmed Shots Fired		Year over year increase	Year over year % increase	Murders		Population	
	2019	2020			2019	2020	2019	2020
Des Moines	1287	1456	169	13%	14	22	216,853	
Davenport	195	279	84	43%	2	10	102,085	
Cedar Rapids	99	163	64	65%	7	12	133,174	
Waterloo	92	106	14	15%	2	7	67,798	
Sioux City	9	59	50	555%	3	5	82,396	
Iowa City	13	57	44	338%	1	2	76,290	
Dubuque	16	17	1	6%	0	1	57,941	
Council Bluffs	9	13	4	31%	6	0	62,421	
Ames	2	5	3	150%	1	0	67,154	
Peoria, IL	615	728	113	18%	25	14	111,388	
Rockford, IL	442	679	237	54%	NA	36	147,881	
Average	252.6	323.8				9.9		

Table 2

“Part I” Crimes for Calendar Years 2012-2020

Compiled by the Dubuque Police Department

Performance Measures	CY12	CY13	CY14*	CY15	CY16	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20	Avg.	CY20 - Percent Over/Under CY19	CY20 - Percent Over/Under Average	CY20 - Percent Over/Under Peak Year
											Over/Under	Average	Peak Year
No. of Crimes Against Persons	186	208	220	265	243	203	190	190	267	219	40.5%	21.9%	0.00%
Murder	2	0	0	5	1	2	1	0	1	1	100.0%	-25.0%	-80.0%
Sexual Assault	43	38	61	80	98	90	75	91	105	76	15.4%	38.8%	0.0%
Robbery	21	32	20	27	26	16	29	14	26	23	85.7%	10.9%	-18.8%
Aggravated Assault	120	138	139	153	118	95	85	85	135	119	58.8%	13.8%	-11.8%
No. of Crimes Against Property	1,992	1,791	1,662	1,953	1,875	1,667	1,543	1,319	1,245	1,672	-5.6%	-25.5%	-37.5%
Burglary	583	431	416	548	420	331	299	205	219	384	6.8%	-42.9%	-62.4%
Burglary to Motor Vehicle	298	231	168	106	144	157	145	88	148	165	68.2%	-10.3%	-50.3%
Theft	1,080	1,103	1,035	1,245	1,235	1,116	1,036	945	808	1,067	-14.5%	-24.3%	-35.1%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	31	26	43	54	76	63	63	81	70	56	-13.6%	24.3%	-7.9%
Total	2,178	1,999	1,882	2,218	2,118	1,870	1,733	1,509	1,512	1,938	0.2%	-22.0%	-31.8%

* Switch to new public safety software August 2014

New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

William Brahm - Parking

Rachel Dilling - Housing

Kendall Faison - Transit

Allison Freihofer - Library

Matthew Gamperl - Police

Jacob Hedley -

Building Services

Troy Hoppenjan - Library

Jake Hudson - Police

Mariah Kammerude - Transit

Noah Kuhn - Library

Colby Molosz - Airport

Brittany Neyen - Police

Michael Patzner - Water

The City of Dubuque congratulates this recent retiree:

John Digman - Police

DMASWA Offers Additional Glass Drop-Off Location

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) has created a third location for residents to drop off glass for recycling. Find the new purple container at HyVee in Asbury Plaza, in addition to the existing locations at the DMASWA (landfill) at 101 Airborne Road and the City's Municipal Services Center at 925 Kerper Court.

Acceptable items include:

- Glass food and beverage containers (rinsed, all colors, labels can stay on)
- Drinking vessels (pint, wine, mason jars)
- Candle jars (leftover wax okay)
- Cosmetic bottles/jars

For more information, visit www.dmaswa.org or call 563-557-8220. §

 facebook.com/CityofDubuque

 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



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

March

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | City Council Meeting and FY2022 Budget Recommendation, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 3 | FY2022 Budget Public Hearing #1, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 4 | FY2022 Budget Public Hearing #2, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 8 | FY2022 Budget Public Hearing #3, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 9 | FY2022 Budget Public Hearing #4, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 11 | FY2022 Budget Public Hearing #5, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 15 | City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 22 | FY2022 Budget Public Hearing #6, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 24 | Final Budget Public Hearing to adopt FY2022 budget, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |

April

- | | |
|----|---|
| 5 | City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |
| 19 | City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting* |

*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 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.

Interactive Maps Assist Property Owners, Buyers, and Sellers

The City's website features interactive maps to help property owners, buyers, and sellers learn more about a property.

Visit www.cityofdubuque.org/interactive-maps to view the following maps:



- **Historic District Map:** Find out if a property is in a historic district or conservation district
- **Zoning Map:** Discover what the property is zoned
- **Financial Incentives Map:** Search by address to find incentives available for owner-occupied, rental and commercial properties

For additional information, contact the Planning Services Department at www.cityofdubuque.org/planning or 563-589-4210.



Don't let the snow on the ground prevent you and your family from enjoying the outdoors this winter! Bundle up and head to Bunker Hill Golf Course for sledding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, or lace up your skates and enjoy the ice rink at Allison-Henderson Park.