

City of Dubuque CITY NEWS

January/February 2026

Inside This Issue

- 2 | Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Composting
 - Heating Bill Assistance
 - New Pet Licensing Vendor
 - Community Support & Empowerment Grant Program
 - PEG Access Equipment Grant Program
- 3 | A Message from the City Manager
 - Free Income Tax Preparation Assistance
 - Odd/Even Snow Route Policy & Notifications
- 4 | New Faces & Retirements
 - Events Calendar
 - Citizen's Police Academy
 - Holiday Lights Recycling

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City News is produced by the City of Dubuque Public Information Office. Comments are welcome at publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org or 563-589-4151.

New Representatives Join City Council

Two new city council representatives were elected in November and will take office on Jan. 2, 2026.



Chris Staver, At-Large

Chris Staver was elected as an At-Large Representative on the city council. A native of Belmont, Wisc., Chris has lived in Dubuque since 1984. He has owned and operated The Copper Kettle restaurant since 2012 and has spent 25 years renovating historic properties and creating and managing rental units. His early career included operating Great Plains Dent Company, specializing in hail damage repair across the U.S. and Europe. Chris's civic involvement has included Toys for Tots, the March of Dimes/Signature Chefs Auction, and the Tri-States Martini Shake Off/HavLife. He has supported community events including Hospice of Dubuque's BestFest, East Dubuque WingFest, and Dubuque Area BaconFest.

After Jan. 2, he can be reached at 563-690-6503 or cstaver@cityofdubuque.org. He has two children and resides at 1027 Barbaralee Dr.



Tyson Leyendecker, Ward One

Tyson Leyendecker was elected as Ward One representative on the city council. A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, he has lived in Dubuque since 2017. Tyson currently serves as president and chief credit officer of Capra Bank. Previously, he served as president and CEO of another well-known community bank before joining Capra Bank. He holds an MBA from the University of Arizona and a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of New Mexico. Tyson's civic involvement includes service on the boards of the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Dubuque County Historical Society, Dubuque Museum of Art, Dubuque Racing Association, Dubuque Rotary, Dyersville Events, and Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.

After Jan. 2, he can be reached at 563-690-6505 or tleyendecker@cityofdubuque.org. Tyson resides at 1760 Overview Ct. with his wife Jennifer and three children.

Two Incumbents Re-Elected

Mayor Brad Cavanagh and Ward Three Representative Danny Sprank were both re-elected to their positions. At-Large Representative Ric Jones will leave the city council after 20 years in the role (and 50 years of continuous service to the City, including his career with the fire department) and Ward One Representative Susan Farber after almost five years.



Contact information for all city council members is available at cityofdubuque.org/citycouncil.



MERRY MULCH

Christmas Tree Collection & Composting

January 5 - 16, 2026

City crews will pick up natural Christmas trees (maximum of 8' high) with a City brush tie or one yellow yard waste sticker attached and visible from the street or alley on your regular collection day.

For questions, call 563-589-4250.



Need Help Paying Your HEATING BILLS

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program designed to assist low-income families meet the cost of home heating by providing a one-time payment to the heating utility. Assistance levels depend on income, family size, type of fuel used to heat the home, and other factors.

Details at hacap.org/energy or call 563-556-5130.

New Pet Licensing Vendor

The City of Dubuque Health Services Department has switched its pet licensing process to a new vendor, DocuPet. DocuPet will contact current license holders via email or postal mail when their license expires. Once issued, licenses will be active for one calendar year from the issue date and must be renewed annually.



DocuPet will issue each pet licensed a free, lifetime identification tag with information that links to a secure online pet profile where photos, contact information, and care instructions can be uploaded. Additional customized tags will be available for purchase.

Registration with DocuPet also provides pet owners with access to the HomeSafe lost pet service. A unique identification code can be shared if the pet is lost or missing. DocuPet works with resources including Petco Love Lost and the National Animal Shelter Network to share information about lost pets to help reunite lost pets with their owners.

To apply for pet license, visit cityofdubuque.org/Pets or call 563-589-4185.

Community Support and Empowerment Grant Program

The Office of Human Rights is accepting applications for the Dubuque Community Support and Empowerment Grant Program. Two or more grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to individuals, nonprofits, businesses, clubs, organizations, or groups of passionate residents to support projects that foster a sense of belonging in Dubuque. Eligible projects must align with at least one of the City's five-year goals, and include a component of community education and/or engagement. Applications are due Jan. 31. Awarded projects must be completed by June 30, 2026.



Community PEG Access Equipment Grant Program

A grant to support the creation of Dubuque public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access programming opens Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.

Local individuals or organizations may apply for video production equipment grants to create content for Dubuque's PEG channels on the Mediacom and Imon cable systems. Examples include documentaries, narrative stories, local features, or other creative projects that engage the community. Applications close Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026.

For more information, visit cityofdubuque.org/DCSEGrant or call 563-589-4190.

To learn more and apply, visit cityofdubuque.org/CommunityPEGGrant



A Message from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

As we enter the new year, it's a time to look forward to new opportunities and to build on the progress and successes of the last year.

Debi Durham, director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Iowa Finance Authority, visited Dubuque in November to join community leaders to break ground on the Dubuque Museum of Art's new expansion. She described it as a transformative project "poised to break the barriers of conventional museums, combining art, education and recreation into a seamless campus."

"This city never stops dreaming big...from the new medical school to the Field of Dreams and Schmitt Island, Dubuque is riding a wave of imagination and investment that's enhancing quality of life and welcoming new faces to our state," she said. "It's exciting to see a community that celebrates creativity and sparks inspiration for generations to come!"

I could not agree more and there are many other transformative projects under way and planned! Envision 2030, the months-long, community-wide visioning process led by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, recently announced the top 10 ideas for Dubuque's future:

- Book and Build: Expanded Library Services
- Water-Powered Fun: Community Aquatic Center
- Putting Down Roots: Community-Centered Housing
- Great Minds: Collaborative Brain Health Resources
- Captivating Shorelines: Mississippi Riverfront Reimagined
- Ageless Support: Center for Senior Well-Being
- Industry to Innovation: Dubuque South Port Revitalization
- Where Curiosity Sprouts: Children's Museum
- Heart of Play: All-Ages Sports Hub
- Grow, Cultivate, Eat: Access to Healthy Food

These things all add to Dubuque's momentum as does the fact that the City just learned that all five of the private projects submitted from Dubuque for the Iowa Economic Development Authority Redevelopment Tax Credit Program received funding:

- Dubuque 5th and Main Project: \$1,500,000
- Farley and Loetscher Project (Historic Millwork District): \$1,250,000
- IOCO Building Project (South Port of Dubuque): \$1,000,000
- Iowa Street Lofts (1248 Iowa St.): \$300,000
- Wilson House Apartments (1243 Locust St.): \$80,000

Dubuque projects garnered \$4.13 of the \$19.12 million in tax credits available state-wide and constitute five of the 25 funded projects from the 51 applications submitted.

The momentum is literally BUILDING. The City of Dubuque's building permit free revenue increased 72% from FY2024 to FY2025. Plus, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation recently reported there has been over \$1 BILLION of development in Dubuque County over the last three years!

Way to go Dubuque, I cannot wait to see what the future holds!

Need help filing your taxes for free?

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) is offering free, IRS-certified tax preparation for all Dubuque residents who generally earn \$67,000 or less. The service is available to all Dubuque Residents with special assistance for elderly adults, people with disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency, ensuring that everyone has access to reliable tax help.

The program begins Feb. 2, and appointments are required. Residents can schedule their appointment online at www.hacap.org/vita or take advantage of drop-off tax preparation options.

For more information, contact HACAP at 563-556-5130 or wsanger@hacap.org.



ODD/EVEN SNOW ROUTE Policy and Notifications

After significant snowfalls, the City's Odd/Even Snow Route Parking Policy may be enacted. When in effect, parking is prohibited on "even-numbered" sides of streets on even days of the month and on "odd-numbered" sides of streets on odd days of the month.

Sign up for Odd/Even Snow Route notifications at cityofdubuque.org/snow or simply text DBQSNOW to 67283.

New Faces & Retirements

New City Employees

Dayna Johnson	Library
Paul Johnson	Transit
Reise Johnson	Public Works
Catherine Richter	Housing
Angela Rouse	Transit
Ella Link	Police
Alexander Stackis	Public Works
Sarah Emm Chesher	Public Works
Christina Lemmon	Public Works
Lauren Gonzales	Housing
Wesley Atkinson	Housing
Matthew Kalcevich	Parks & Recreation
Kloie Eitter	Library
Joseph Callahan	Parking
Douglas Hirsch	Engineering
Thomas Sladky	Transit
Parker Legel	Engineering
Levi Legrand	Public Works
Keeley Zamora	Emergency Communications
Michael Marisie	Emergency Communications
Jodi Cowan	Emergency Communications
Kelsey Butler	Emergency Communications
Anna Wolle	City Attorney's Office
Adis Rekic	Transit
Rita Parkin	Transit
Timothy Krieger	Information Technology

Recent Retirees

Steven Berkley	Fire
Chris Skorupski	Police

New Board/Commission Members

Ron Vaughn	Airport Commission
Julie Bockenstedt	Civil Service Commission
Otto Krueger	Civil Service Commission
Daniel Scott	Investment and Cash Management Oversight Advisory Commission

Recycle Your Old Holiday Lights!

You can recycle your old and non-working holiday lights through Jan. 10, at: City of Dubuque Municipal Services Center, 925 Kerper Ct.; Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 W. 11th St.; Dubuque County Library - Asbury Branch, 5290 Grand Meadow Dr.; and Dubuque Metro Landfill, 101 Airborne Rd.

Visit dmaswa.org/holidaylights for details!



Calendar

January

- 1 City facilities closed for New Year's Day
(No change in curbside collection on Dec. 31.
Jan. 1 curbside collection will occur on
Saturday, Jan. 3.)
- 5 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 City facilities closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(No change in curbside collection.)
- 20 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

February

- 2 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building, 350 W. 6th St.

The public has the option to view and participate in City Council meetings in person at City Council Chambers or virtually (see agenda for details). Meetings are aired live on CityChannel Dubuque (Mediacom cable channels 8 and 117.2 and ImOn channel 5), 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.

Citizen's Police Academy

Applications Due Sunday, Jan. 11

The Dubuque Police Department will hold the 28th annual Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) on Thursdays from 6 - 9:30 p.m. from Jan. 29 through April 2.



The CPA is a 10-week program and participants are strongly encouraged to commit to attending all sessions. CPA sessions are taught by local 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.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age with no felony convictions and no significant arrest history. Space is limited. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11, and can be found at cityofdubuque.org/cpa. Paper applications are available at the Dubuque Police Department, 770 Iowa St.

Preference will be given to Dubuque residents. The CPA does not certify participants as law enforcement officers.

For more information, contact Lieutenant Luke Bock at 563-589-4473 or Captain Steve Radloff at 563-587-3807.