

CITYnews

The Jule Adds New Buses, Routes, and Expanded Service Areas

The Jule, Dubuque's public transit division, has implemented many changes over the past year to improve service including a completely new bus fleet, new routes, expanded service area, and reduced travel times. A new "shopping circulator" route was just added in late November.



The Shopping Circulator provides fixed-route service to Dubuque's West End residential areas and businesses. The transfer of passengers between the Shopping Circulator and The Jule's Red, Green and Grey Lines occurs at the JFK Circle. The "northern" section of the Shopping Circulator is 25 minutes in length, and provides fixed-route service to locations including Sam's Club, the Asbury Plaza area, and the Goodwill Store. The "southern" section is 35 minutes in length, and provides service to locations including Wal-Mart, Lowe's, the Warren Plaza area, and the Kennedy Mall.

In December 2010, The Jule added a "Medical Loop" route. The Medical Loop (formerly known as the Orange Line) provides hourly fixed-route service between the Finley Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Medical Associates Clinic (East Campus only), as well as Clarke University, Loras College, the University of Dubuque, the South Locust Street Hy-Vee Food Store, and the recent addition of the Key West area (Driver's License Bureau).

"Winter is a great time to try public transit," said The Jule's Transportation

Director Barbara Morck. "If you don't like winter driving or are tired of scraping ice and snow off your car, give The Jule a try."

Despite the new buses and expanded service area, The Jule's fares have not increased. Fares are \$1 per ride for the general public; \$0.50 for passengers with a half-fare ID, persons with disabilities, and students (K-12) without a current school ID; free for students (K-12) with a current school ID; and no charge for transfers. Those eligible for a Jule half-fare ID include persons age 65 and older, anyone with a diagnosed disability, and anyone with a Medicare card. Adults may purchase a pass for 10 rides for \$9; or those eligible for The Jule half-fare ID card, may purchase a pass for 10 rides for \$5. Monthly passes are also available for the calendar month for \$35.

The Jule's mini-bus service is an on-demand option that promotes independence for persons with disabilities by providing "Origin to Destination" transportation and passenger assistance.

Fixed route hours of service are from 6:00 a.m. to 6:20 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Mini-bus hours mirror the fixed route schedules, as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For customized route information, use The Jule's online "TripMaker" request form at www.cityofdubuque.org/thejule. Just

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submit your travel plans and The Jule's staff will reply with the information you need to get where you want to go on time.

For more information on The Jule's services, please visit www.cityofdubuque.org/thejule, call 563-589-4196, or visit the The Jule's offices at 2401 Central Avenue.



January is Radon Action Month

Radon causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths every year. It is a radioactive, colorless, odorless gas that can be a problem in all types of homes, including old homes, new homes, drafty homes, insulated homes, homes with basements and homes without basements. Local geology, construction materials, and how the home was built are among the factors that can affect radon levels in homes.

Data collected by the Iowa Radon Program shows that Iowa has the largest percentage (71.6%) of homes above the USEPA action level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), which is more than any other state in the country. The entire state of Iowa is designated by the EPA as a Zone 1 area, which means that at least 50% of the homes are above the EPA's recommended

action level. Dubuque is no exception to this air quality issue. From 1990-2009, 41% of the residences tested in Dubuque were over the EPA action level.

The only way to find out if you have radon in your home is to test. The American Lung Association, the EPA, and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes for radon. Screening tests for radon are simple, relatively inexpensive and available at hardware and home improvement stores.

The City of Dubuque Health Services Department, in conjunction with the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, has radon educational materials and information available. Call 589-4181 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/health. §

20th Annual Dr. King Tribute Day Breakfast

The City of Dubuque Human Rights Department, in partnership with faces & voices and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, invites you to attend a breakfast in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior's birthday **Monday, Jan. 16**, at 7:30 a.m. (7 a.m. registration), Grand River Center, 550 Bell Street. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for youth 12 and under. Pre-registration is required by no later than January 9 through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, 563-588-2700 or office@dbqfoundation.org

The breakfast will feature two keynote speakers: Arthur Woodard, Jr., MSW, and Jim Wuelfing, CPP-R. The pair will speak on *Racism of the Well-Intended*, which provides a look at the underlying racial tension that continues to permeate society today. There will also be a FREE evening session with the speakers on that night (6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. program) at the Diamond Jo Casino, 2nd floor meeting room.

2012 is the first year that Martin Luther King, Junior's birthday will be a City employee holiday. §

Bald Eagle Watch

January 21, 2012 | Grand River Center
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This annual FREE family event, co-sponsored by the City of Dubuque Leisure Services Department, celebrates the American Bald Eagle with live bird programs, children's activities, and live eagle watching. Vendors will have wildlife art, books, nature items and food available for purchase. Exhibitors will share information about opportunities to experience nature in the Tri-State area.

Historic Washington Street Row Houses For Sale

The City of Dubuque Housing and Community Development Department is selling six single-family town homes in the Historic Washington Neighborhood. These two-bedroom, one-bathroom "row house" town homes are each approximately 1,100 square feet and feature hardwood flooring. They have been completely renovated and historically restored according to high energy-efficiency guidelines and include off-street parking.

These homes are an affordable downtown living opportunity for income-eligible homebuyers. Subsidized financing is available. For more information, please call 563-589-4239 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/housingrehab. §

Front view of "row house" town homes



Each home has a rear courtyard



Rebate Program for Sewer Backflow Prevention

Approved by the City Council in December 1996, the City of Dubuque's Sanitary Sewer Backflow Stopvalve Rebate Program has provided funds to Dubuque homeowners to help them protect their basements, appliances, and belongings from sanitary sewer backups caused by heavy rain events. The program provides up to \$500 towards the purchase and installation of a backflow stopvalve in a home's sewer lateral pipe. To date, this program has helped 56 homeowners, nine since the historic rain event of July 27-28, 2011. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 563-589-4250 or submit a request to Public Works using "Contact Us" on the City of Dubuque's website at www.cityofdubuque.org. §



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

FY2013 BUDGET PROCESS

As this newsletter goes to press in early December, the City is entering the busiest season of our annual budget cycle. I will present my recommended budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013) to the City Council at their February 6 meeting. Over the course of seven public meetings in February and March, City staff from each department and division will present budget information to the City Council. The final public meeting will be to adopt the budget. The public is invited to attend and provide input at each meeting.

While the dates and times of the public meetings for the FY2013 budget have not yet been finalized, I encourage you to watch for updates on the City website (www.cityofdubuque.org/budget), on CityChannel (analog channel 8 and digital channel 97.2 on the Mediacom cable system), and in the Telegraph Herald.

For additional details on the City budget process, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/budget or call 563-589-4110.

DUBUQUE IN THE NEWS

Dubuque has received national and even international attention in recent months.

In early November, **Popular Science** featured the Sustainable Dubuque initiative in an online article titled, "How Dubuque is Becoming the Smartest City in America." It stated, "By providing its citizens with a steady stream of personalized, real-time data, the ninth-largest city in Iowa is changing the world." It goes on to say "... it was in 2009 that Dubuque ... began its transformation into one of the most important cities in America. That's when the city launched a unique public/private partnership with IBM Research to recreate Dubuque as the nation's first truly smart, sustainable city."

The December 2011 issue of **Scientific American** included an article titled "After the Deluge" which featured Dubuque's Bee Branch Creek Restoration and Gateway Project as one example of how, "cities and states are changing infrastructure on their own to counteract severe weather that is killing more people and destroying

more property." The article explained, "A spate of floods, droughts and heat waves is prompting city and state leaders to take bold steps to protect their people and property ... Dubuque, Iowa, has exhumed a buried creek to reduce storm flooding." In closing, the author stated, "Adaptation is best planned by municipalities because solutions must be tailored to local problems, but courageous leaders are often needed to rally support." I applaud Mayor Buol and the Dubuque City Council for their leadership.

Additionally, **BBC News Magazine** featured a video story in late November on Dubuque's transformation entitled, "How a Midwestern town reinvented itself." It featured interviews with community leaders and residents and stated, "The city of Dubuque, once faced with record unemployment, has turned its fortunes around. It did so with a combination of inner-city redevelopment and technological advances geared towards a greener, more sustainable future."

In mid-November, Dubuque also had the honor of hosting National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Rocco Landesman. He toured the Historic Millwork District, which was awarded a \$100,000 NEA grant to promote "creative placemaking," or the reshaping of neighborhoods through joint efforts of public, private, nonprofit, and community sectors. He said, "I don't think any place gets that better than Dubuque." §

Odd/Even Snow Route Parking Notifications

When Dubuque's snow route policy is declared, the program requires "odd/even" parking along the City's designated snow routes, which are marked by signage. 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 in effect from noon to 5:00 p.m. OR 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., depending upon the street.



and digital channel 97.2 on the Mediacom cable system) and the City of Dubuque website, as well as the City's "CodeRED" automated telephone messaging system.

To add a phone number to the database, visit www.cityofdubuque.org and click on the "CodeRED" logo.

Residents may also subscribe to the Odd/Even Snow Route Parking "Notify Me" list at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme. An email and/or text will be sent to subscribers each time the odd/even snow route parking policy goes into effect.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/snowroute or call 563-589-4250. §

Prevent Water Meters from Freezing

The City of Dubuque Water Department reminds you to make sure that the plumbing and water meter in your home or business are properly protected from freezing. Verify that your basement/utility room windows are tightly sealed from summer use and that there is proper heating provided to these areas. If you use heat tapes, make sure they are properly installed and are working safely. If your water meter freezes, you are responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement for a damaged water meter. §

Did you know...

Dubuque Fire & EMS

is your local 911 emergency and non-emergency ambulance provider.



- Dubuque Fire & EMS is supported by your tax dollars. Using your local EMS & Fire Department helps **save tax dollars**.
- Dubuque Fire & EMS has six stations located throughout the city that are ready to respond ensuring that emergency help is only **moments away**.
- Dubuque Fire & EMS is staffed with **highly skilled** EMT-Paramedics and firefighters that are trained to the highest standards.
- The City of Dubuque has four Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedic response ambulances and 65 paramedic personnel available for emergency medical response within the service area.

Remember, when you need an ambulance, request
Dubuque Fire & EMS

In case of emergency, call **911**

For non-emergencies, call (563) 582-4980

Winter Yard Waste Collection

Winter yard waste will be collected on Thursdays from Jan. 19 - Feb. 23 by appointment only. Yellow stickers or a 2012 annual decal are required. Call 589-4250 to schedule a pick-up or submit an online request at www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste.



New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Jami Boss
Fire Department

Sharon Gaul
Housing and Comm.
Development

Deb Searles
City Manager's Office

Retirements

Congratulations to this employee who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

Richard "Dick" Firzloff
Housing and Comm. Development

Contact Information

The City of Dubuque welcomes comments and suggestions about your city government or news appearing in this newsletter. Please contact:

Randy Gehl, Public Information Officer
City Hall, 50 W. 13th Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864
(563) 589-4110 phone
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publicinfo@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

January

- 2 City Offices closed for New Year's
- 2 Five Flags Advisory Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Five Flags Center, 405 Main St.
- 3 2012 Annual Yard Waste Stickers available for \$30 at City Hall - Utility Billing
- 3 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 3 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 9 Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 12 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 16 City Offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; No change in curbside collection schedule.
- 17 City Council Work Session on Council Bluffs Flood Control, 5:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 17 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 24 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 25 Investment Oversight Advisory Commission, 3:00 p.m., Conf. Rm. A, City Hall
- 26 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Library auditorium
- 30 City Council Work Session on Red Light Camera Traffic Enforcement 6:00 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

February

- 6 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 6 Five Flags Advisory Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Five Flags Center, 405 Main St.
- 7 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 9 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 13 Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 14 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course snack bar
- 21 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 23 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 28 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library

This calendar does not include all events, and is subject to change. Are you using Dubuque's "Notify Me" e-mail alert system? If not, please sign up today at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.

*City Hall: 50 W. 13th St.
City Hall Annex: 1300 Main St.
Historic Federal Building: 350 W. 6th St.
Carnegie-Stout Public Library: 360 W. 11th St.
Bunker Hill Snack Bar: 2200 Bunker Hill Rd.*