

# CITYnews

## Smarter Water Portal Available to Additional Households and Businesses

Up to 4,000 additional Dubuque households and small businesses will soon have access Dubuque's Smarter Water Portal, an interactive website developed in collaboration with IBM Research for utility customers to more closely monitor their water usage.

This expanded access follows the successful completion of the Smarter Water Pilot Study in 2011. There is no additional cost or equipment needed to utilize this new tool designed to help residents and businesses make more informed decisions about how they use water and track the associated costs.

Dubuque's Smarter Water Pilot Study was a Smarter Sustainable Dubuque project conducted in conjunction with the City's community-wide water meter replacement project in 2010-2011. More than 300 Dubuque households participated in this 12-month pilot study which helped participants voluntarily reduce water utilization by 6.6 percent and increased leak detection and response eight-fold among participants.

The Smarter Water Portal provides a customer-specific, integrated view of water usage. The data is collected hourly and transmitted daily. Usage data can be displayed in gallons, cost, or by carbon footprint. The portal also provides leak detection and notification, historical usage data, and comparative data.

If you are interested in accessing detailed information on your water usage via the Internet, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/smarterwater](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/smarterwater) to complete the online enrollment form or call the Smarter Sustainable Dubuque help desk at 563.690.6111.

### WHY USE THE SMARTER WATER PORTAL?

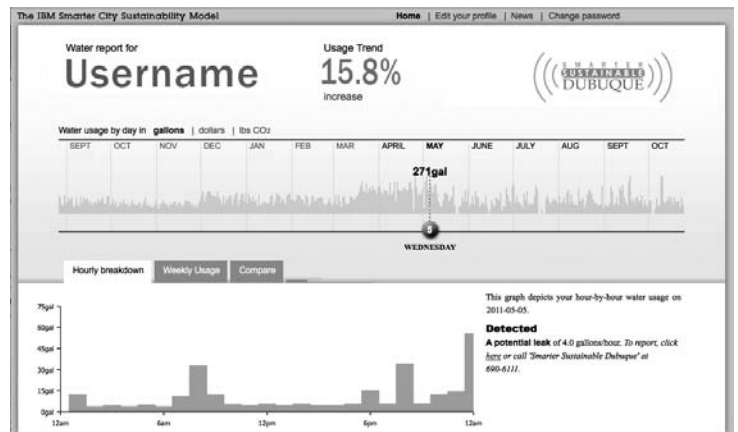
- Leak detection and notification, historical usage data, and comparative data
- Make better-informed decisions about water usage
- No cost or equipment needed, just internet access

### PILOT STUDY FINDINGS

- 77% said the Water Portal increased their understanding of their water use
- 70% said it helped them assess the impacts of the changes they had made
- 48% felt that it helped them conserve water
- 61% reported making a change to a water appliance or in the ways they used water (or both)
- 48% reported that they planned to make changes to their water equipment or ways of using water in the future.

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Draft portal design



## Workshop Offers “Bridges Out of Poverty”

A workshop designed to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those who live in and have lived in poverty, and their strengths, will be offered in Dubuque for social, health, legal, educational, and business professionals. The general public is also invited.

“Bridges Out of Poverty” is being offered from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, at the Loras College Ballroom, 1450 Alta Vista, with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. The cost to participate in

the workshop is \$75 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch, and a copy of Dr. Ruby Payne’s book “Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities.”

Registration is available online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/bridgesoutofpoverty](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/bridgesoutofpoverty). Please register by February 24. For more information, please contact Carroll Clark at 563-589-4230 or [cclark@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:cclark@cityofdubuque.org). §

## Yard Debris Collection Resumes April 2

Seasonal yard debris and food scrap collection for current subscribers starts Monday, April 2. For more information, call Public Works at 563-589-4250 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks). §

## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**Patricia Gleason**  
City Clerk’s Office

**Stephanie Valentine**  
City Manager’s Office

**Queshawnda Jackson**  
Transit

**Charles Kelly**  
Transit

**Richard Fullmer**  
Police Department

**Isaiah Hoff**  
Police Department

**Danielle McNally**  
Police Department

**Jay Murray**  
Police Department

**Nicholas Wilson**  
Public Works

## Retirements

Congratulations to the following employees who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

**Curran Smothers**  
Public Works

**Robert Meloy**  
Transit

## City Expo 2012

Tuesday, April 10 – 5-8 p.m.  
Five Flags Arena

**A free family event for all Dubuque residents, especially newcomers!**

## Celebrate Earth Day!

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) is sponsoring events to celebrate Earth Day Everyday! The first will be on Saturday, April 14, at the Asbury Hy-Vee meeting room at 10 a.m. There will be a short presentation on the impacts of disposable bags followed by a free showing of the movie, “Bag It!” The second opportunity will be the Earth Jam 2012 featuring environmental entertainer, Tom Pease, at the E.B. Lyons Nature Center in the Mines of Spain. This event will offer kids’ activities starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by the concert at 6:30 p.m. Both events are free of charge. For more information, contact the DMASWA Education Office at 563-588-7933 or email [Beverly.wagner@loras.edu](mailto:Beverly.wagner@loras.edu). §



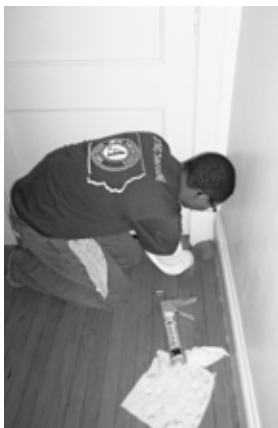
## Community Garden Plots Available

Reservations are being taken for plots in the Dubuque Jaycees Community Garden, located at Veterans Memorial Park and supported by the City of Dubuque. The Community Garden provides a water supply and is surrounded by a deer fence. It includes eight in-ground and six raised beds, along with two waist-high beds for gardeners with limited mobility. Annual rates are \$30 for in-ground and raised beds and \$40 for waist-high beds, with a \$25 refundable deposit. The deadline to reserve a plot is May 1. Visit [www.facebook.com/DubuqueJayceesCommunityGarden](http://www.facebook.com/DubuqueJayceesCommunityGarden) for more info, or contact Jeanne Schiltz at 563-588-9229 or [designerjeanne@gmail.com](mailto:designerjeanne@gmail.com) to sign up. This program supports the *Sustainable Dubuque* principle of Healthy Local Foods. §

## Free Weatherization and Energy Audits Offered

The Green Iowa Americorps team is available to provide homeowners and landlords with energy efficiency audits and weatherization services. Labor is volunteered; customers are asked to fund the materials (typically \$50-\$350). Free materials are available for low-income, senior citizens (65+), disabled, and veterans. To schedule an audit, call 563-690-6032 or email [greeniowaDB@gmail.com](mailto:greeniowaDB@gmail.com).

Making your home more energy-efficient supports the *Sustainable Dubuque* principles of Green Buildings and Smart Energy Use. §





## A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The City of Dubuque spends millions of dollars each year on traffic safety, including the recent funding of a traffic unit in the Police Department, and still there are thousands of accidents, millions of dollars of property damage, and hundreds of injuries with some deaths caused by traffic accidents. It is incumbent on the City to continue to look at solutions.

The City's emphasis is on engineering solutions. These improvements are many and are expensive, but are being consistently implemented. The recent study, authorized by the Mayor and City Council, of using roundabouts in place of traffic lights is a proven method to increase safety and facilitate traffic flow.

At a January 30, 2012, work session (viewable online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/media](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/media)), the Mayor and City Council heard information on automated traffic enforcement (ATE). The process of implementing ATE in Dubuque will now proceed to the City Council considering a private vendor to install and maintain equipment, at no upfront cost to the City, and considering ordinance changes enabling ATE in Dubuque.

Over the past several years, various cities in Iowa have been implementing ATE systems as a means to reduce traffic violations and prevent accidents. These cities include but are not limited to Davenport, Cedar Rapids, Clive, Des Moines, Muscatine, Fort Dodge, Council Bluffs and Sioux City.

The Davenport Police Department implemented ATE in 2004. They conducted a study of the year prior to red light cameras being installed and the two years after the cameras were installed and reported finding a 60% reduction in accidents caused by running red lights and a 47% reduction in rear-end crashes. They also found an 8.5% reduction in personal injury accidents and a 9.5% reduction in total accidents citywide.

The Cedar Rapids Police Department implemented ATE in 2010. They compared

accident data from before the cameras were instituted through 2011 and found traffic accidents citywide were down 22%, injury accidents were down 19%, and fatal accidents were down 80%. Traffic accidents at the monitored intersections are down 12%, traffic accidents on Interstate 380 are down 76%, and accidents on Interstate 380 are down 75%.

The Des Moines Police Department has had an ATE system active for only six months, but they report an average accident decrease of 33% at the five monitored intersections, when compared to the same six-month period over the previous four years.

A 2007 Iowa State University Center for Transportation Research and Education study entitled "The Effectiveness of Iowa's Automated Red Light Running Enforcement Programs," found cities in Iowa with ATE saw accident decreases ranging from 20-44% in total accidents, and a 40-90% decrease in ATE intersections. The entire study can be reviewed online at [www.intrans.iastate.edu/reports/rlr-phase2.pdf](http://www.intrans.iastate.edu/reports/rlr-phase2.pdf).

The Dubuque Police Department responded to 2,965 accidents in calendar year 2010 and 2,836 accidents in 2011. While accidents occur for a variety of reasons; speed, failure to obey traffic control devices (traffic signals, signs), and other intersection-related issues are common causes.

A Dubuque Police Department study of IDOT crash data was completed for the years 2001 through 2010 and showed 13,334 accidents in the City of Dubuque that were reported to the IDOT. These accidents resulted in an average property damage of \$4,001 per accident for a total of \$53,345,745. More importantly, there were 20 fatal accidents, 160 major injury accidents, and an additional 3,556 accidents with minor/possible injuries.

When accidents are reported to the IDOT, a major cause is listed. The major cause is the primary factor the reporting officer

believes led to the accident. Of the 13,334 accidents reviewed, 1,058 listed "driver ran traffic signal" as the major cause, 371 showed speed-related violations as the major cause, and 2,900 showed failure to maintain control, which is often a speed-related violation. "Ran traffic signal" was also listed as the major cause in 21 of the 160 major injury accidents, and three of the 20 fatal accidents.

A Dubuque Police Department study of IDOT data for Dubuque accident intersections for years 2003 to 2010 was also completed and the top accident intersections were identified for each year. While the specific intersections and ranking of the intersections change over the years, the same intersections routinely show up in each year's statistics. The study also showed that the 10-15 intersections identified each year also comprise approximately 10% of all of the City's accidents in the given year. With the hundreds of intersections and streets in the city, having one out of every ten accidents occur at ten individual locations is cause for concern.

Not all locations are physically designed to allow for traditional observation and enforcement. Multi-lane intersections without adjoining off-street spaces for squad cars make observation and enforcement activities very difficult. While the department has added additional officers over the past five years, increases in calls for service every year, generally results in decreased time available for extra traffic enforcement. The Safe Community Task Force made increased traffic enforcement a recommendation to the City Council. Despite staffing and call issues, the department responded and had a major increase in traffic enforcement.

Traffic is moving 24 hours a day in the City and it is impossible to try and watch each and every intersection and roadway at all times to prevent violations and accidents. Automated enforcement can monitor intersections and roadways at all times. A well-publicized traffic camera campaign, as well as obvious signage for enforcement zones, will hopefully contribute to better driving habits.

Typically an Engineering Study/Safety Analysis is conducted at the intersection in question prior to the installation of automated enforcement. The City of Dubuque Engineering Department evaluates intersections on a yearly basis for improvements as they relate to safety and

*continued on page 4*

congestion. Once an intersection is flagged and a solution is engineered, funding is sought.

The City utilizes the recommendations of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to set clearance timings on traffic signals. Uniformity is a necessity to ensure that motorists know what to expect when they approach a traffic signal. The City of Dubuque uses an equation of the ITE to calculate yellow clearance times. The yellow timing is never less than 3 seconds or more than 6 seconds.

The City is planning to ultimately convert all pedestrian signal heads to the countdown style. The MUTCD recognizes two sizes of signal heads—8-inch and 12-inch. MUTCD states that all new signal installations are to be the 12-inch style. All signals within the City of Dubuque are currently using the 12-inch head size.

One of the concerns mentioned with ATE is the “right to face your accuser.” The courts have ruled many times on the admissibility of photos and video. As long as the City can produce information as to the authentication of video/photos through witness testimony and the proper chain of custody of the information, videos and photos have been deemed admissible. Also, the right to “face your accuser” is associated with prosecution in a criminal case. Violations under ATE are not processed as criminal violations. ATE violations across the state are written as civil violations.

Another concern cited with ATE is that a private company will be issuing the violations based on its own subjective standards. The

ATE system simply detects violators within these parameters and then stores photos and videos for multiple levels of human review. The vendor evaluates whether an event constitutes a violation and forwards it to the City for review. The City makes the final determination on all violations. A Dubuque Police Department employee would be the final decision maker on a violation.

The proposed process for ATE in Dubuque also gives people the right to due process. The violations would be issued as civil infractions with the right to view violations, and an appeal process including the option of trial at the District Court.

Some opponents of ATE have questioned the constitutionality of the systems. In all challenges thus far, the Iowa Supreme Court has supported the right of cities to use ATE systems.

Another concern expressed is the fact that a vehicle’s registered owner is given the violation and not the driver. As this is a civil violation and not a criminal violation, the responsibility falls on the registered owner in much the same manner as parking violations. Special circumstances may exist, so that any system adopted for Dubuque would allow for a vehicle’s registered owner to identify and “nominate” the driver and have the infraction redirected to that individual.

Because accident prevention and driver awareness are the primary goals of an ATE system, the City’s program would be very visible. All intersections or roadways with ATE systems would be marked with high-profile signs alerting drivers to the enforcement areas. The City would regularly publish the enforcement locations on the City’s website and provide media releases about the enforcement locations. A widespread education and public awareness campaign including advertising and informational materials for citizens would be very important.

I am convinced that Automated Traffic Enforcement will save lives, reduce property damage, and make Dubuque a safer community. At the City Council’s direction, City staff will continue to explore this issue for Dubuque as we monitor possible state legislative action that could impact ATE statewide. §

## March

- 5 Five Flags Advisory Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Five Flags Center, 405 Main St.
- 5 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 6 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 7 Public Hearing to Adopt the FY2013 Budget, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 8 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 12 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 13 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course snack bar
- 19 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 20 Housing Code Appeals Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 21 Community Development Advisory Commission, Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Library auditorium
- 27 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 27 Housing Commission, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building

## April

- 2 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, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 10 City Expo, 5-8 p.m., Five Flags Arena, FREE
- 10 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course snack bar
- 12 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 16 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 17 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 18 Community Development Advisory Commission, Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 24 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 24 Housing Commission, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 25 Investment Oversight Advisory Commission, 3:30 p.m., Conf Room A, City Hall
- 26 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Library auditorium

*This calendar does not include all events, and is subject to change.*

*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.*

### 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

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