

# CITYnews

## Street Improvement Projects Under Way

The mild spring of 2012 has allowed the early start of construction season in Dubuque. The City has a number of street improvement and construction projects already in progress or planned.

### *Annual Asphalt Overlay Program*

The Public Works Department will again pave over 10 miles of city streets this summer. The street surfaces will first be ground down or "milled," with the asphalt grindings recycled and blended into the new asphalt. For a list of streets scheduled for repaving this construction season, call 563-589-4250 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/asphaltoverlay](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/asphaltoverlay).

### *Historic Millwork District Complete Streets Project*

This project is currently underway and includes reconstruction of Washington Street between 9th and 11th Streets. Portions of the project already completed include sections of 9th, 10th, and Jackson Streets. Remaining work includes street pavement, street lighting, and underground utility work. This project is

expected to be completed in May 2012, six months ahead of schedule.

### *East 14th Street*

This project will involve the resurfacing and curb replacement on E. 14th Street between Sycamore Street and the railroad tracks. Anticipated completion: November 2012.

### *Green Alley Projects*

The City has several "Green" Alley Projects scheduled for this summer. The first alley to be reconstructed will be between Jackson and Washington Streets, from 17th to 18th Streets. The alley between Arlington and Loras Blvd. from Dell Street to Prairie Street, and the alley between Washington and Elm Streets, from 17th to 18th, will be replaced. These alley reconstructions will include permeable brick pavers where appropriate. The underground utilities will also be replaced/upgraded. Anticipated completion: November 2012.



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### *Ramona Street*

This project will replace the pavement on Ramona Street between Adeline and Mt. Loretta Streets. Anticipated completion: August 2012.

### *Southwest Arterial*

The City in partnership with the Iowa DOT has purchased 27 of the 43 impacted properties within the Southwest Arterial corridor. Work on the \$3 million North Cascade Road Reconstruction Project will continue throughout the summer. With the bridge work completed, the Stage II Grading and Paving will resume and is anticipated to be completed by fall 2012. Both the English Mill and Military Road reconstruction projects are scheduled to start construction this fall and will include the construction of new bridges which will allow the future Southwest Arterial to cross under each of those side roads. §

## Keep the Way Clear

Now that spring has arrived, many home owners turn their attention to gardening and yard work. In some areas, trees and shrubbery growing on private property encroach upon public rights-of-way (sidewalks and streets), resulting in dozens of complaint calls to the City's Leisure Services Department.

Keeping vegetation trimmed back and clear of sidewalks and streets is the responsibility of the property owner and a number of applicable guidelines are outlined in the City's Street Tree and Landscaping on Public Right-of-Way Policy. Obstructed sidewalks can be an obstacle for youngsters on their way to and from school and a great burden and hazard to people with disabilities, as well as anyone just out for a walk. Additionally, blocked visibility at intersections can result in accidents and personal injury if traffic control signs and visibility of oncoming traffic can't be seen.

As you go about your spring yard work and clean-up activities, please look to see that vegetation growing on your property is not causing a problem. By taking care of these potential issues before they become a problem, everyone benefits. To view the full Street Tree and Landscaping on Public Right-of-Way Policy, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/trees](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/trees). For more information, call the Leisure Services Department at 563-589-4263.

## Donations Sought to 'Save the '48'

Retired Dubuque Police Officer Mark Kisting donated his 1948 Chevy Stylemaster sedan, a Dubuque Police Department Accident Prevention vehicle replica, to the Dubuque Police Department for restoration and use in future parades and civic events.

A "Save the '48" committee has been formed to raise funds to refurbish the vehicle. Car enthusiasts, Vernon "Butch" Klein and Wayne Klein, as well as many local individuals and businesses have agreed to donate their time and talent to restore the car, but parts are costly and difficult to find. The committee is seeking tax-deductible donations.

Cash or checks made payable to the City of Dubuque can be mailed to the attention of Captain Kevin Klein or Officer Nick Schlosser at the Dubuque Law Enforcement Center, 770 Iowa Street, Dubuque, IA 52001.

In appreciation for donations, each donor will receive a certificate, regardless of the amount donated. For larger donations, a plaque will be created and the names of those donors will be added to the plaque for the following amounts: Bronze \$100 – \$249; Silver \$250 – \$499; Gold \$500 - \$999; and Platinum \$1,000 and above. The plaque will travel with the car and be displayed at parades and civic events to acknowledge those who made the restoration possible.

For additional information on the Save the '48 campaign, contact Kevin Klein at 563-451-7104 or Nick Schlosser at 563-599-1348. §



## Police Department Celebrates 175 Years of Service

2012 marks the 175th anniversary of the Dubuque Police Department. To celebrate the anniversary, a historical committee consisting of several officers and civilians, was formed. Some of the projects they have in the works include the "Save the '48" project, a new department uniform patch design, commemorative badges, and a hard-cover book documenting the department's history.



The historical book will consist of over 150 pages of historical photos representing the Dubuque Police Department over the past 175 years. Pre-paid orders for books are being accepted now, at a cost of \$30. To purchase a book, please call one of the individuals below during normal business hours to make arrangements for payment: Jodi Murphy, 563-589-4410; Corporal Brendan Welsh, 563-587-3823; or Captain Kevin Klein at 563-587-3807. For more information on the history of the Dubuque Police Department, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/dpdhistory](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/dpdhistory).

## 2012 Art on the River Exhibit Selected



Ten new works of outdoor sculpture have been selected for the City's 2012 Art on the River Exhibition, located in the Port of Dubuque. In its seventh year, the temporary public art exhibit drew 120 entries from 66 artists in 20 different states! The pieces will be installed along the Mississippi Riverwalk in early July with an opening event set for Thursday, July 12, at 5:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center. The public is invited to attend.

Art on the River is free, open year-round (sunrise to sunset), and accessible to all. It is part of the Dubuque City Council's Arts and Culture initiative, in conjunction with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission. For additional information, call 563-589-4110 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver), where you can vote for your favorite piece! §

## Home Improvement Projects Permits

It's home improvement season in Dubuque! As a reminder, many home improvement projects require building permits. Roofing, siding, window replacements, retaining walls, decks and storage sheds are examples of projects that require a permit.

For more information about whether a project you are planning needs a permit, please contact the Building Services Department at 563-589-4150 or by email at [building@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:building@cityofdubuque.org). All permits are available online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/constructionpermits](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/constructionpermits). §

## Applications Available for Reduced Refuse and Stormwater Fees

The City of Dubuque recently updated its application for the Refuse and Stormwater Fee 50 Percent Reduction program. Low-income customers who qualify are able to receive a 50 percent reduction in monthly refuse and stormwater fees. The credit does not apply to water and sewer fees.

To apply, visit or contact the Utility Billing Department at City Hall, 50 W. 13th Street, 563-589-4144. The application is also available online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling).



# A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013) operating budget and capital improvement program budget were adopted by the Mayor and City Council in early March. As always, the budget was developed around the Mayor and City Council goals and priorities. Sustainability was the underpinning of the entire budget and our goal is to position the City to catapult past other cities as a premier place to live, benefitting our local residents and attracting new people to the workforce. The City Council held six public meetings and one public hearing to hear presentations by City departments and to solicit public input.

Dubuque has been investing in the future, not spending money on short-term improvements with limited life that will provide only short-term gains but building for a solid future. Investments in the FY2013 budget include:

- Construction of the Dubuque Industrial Center South for existing businesses to expand and new businesses a place to locate, creating jobs
- Phase II of the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, saving over 1,150 homes and businesses from flooding
- Public infrastructure improvements to the Historic Millwork District, supporting the redevelopment of over one million square feet into residential, commercial, and retail space
- Completion of the Water and Resource Recovery Center, replacing the decades old water pollution control plant and complying with EPA order

- Components of the Southwest Arterial project
- A new airport terminal and the extension of water and sewer infrastructure to the airport
- Expansion of the Multicultural Family Center
- Renovation of the former firehouse at 22nd and Central to return the building to its historic character, and to house Head Start and Crescent Community Health Center education programming
- Reconstruction of Cedar Cross Road and North Cascade Road

To fund these investments and others, and maintain Dubuque's high level of city services, the FY2013 budget includes a 3.19% increase to the City portion of the property tax rate, or an additional \$2.62 per month for the average Dubuque homeowner. Additionally, there are increases to the city water, sanitary sewer, refuse collection, and stormwater fees which are estimated to result in a total average increase of under \$9 per month for the average homeowner.

Progress costs money. Stagnation has a cost also. Some of that cost is economic, like decreases in property values, less private investment, no growth in retail sales. This would contribute to the cost of City services becoming an increasing burden on fewer and fewer people. Stagnation actually has a higher cost -- fewer jobs for our children and grandchildren, causing them to leave the area. Dubuquers are not interested in repeating that experience from the 1980s.

It is also important to note that the City of Dubuque is required by state law to adopt a balanced budget and we do NOT borrow money to pay our operating expenses. The City does borrow money for long-term capital projects. The City has designated sources of revenue to make all the debt payments for these projects. Some people have inaccurately compared the City's debt to a person using a credit card. City debt is more comparable to a person borrowing money to buy a house.

Dubuque has the second-lowest property tax rate of the 10 largest cities in the state of Iowa.

### Dubuque's Ranking Among Iowa's 10 Largest Cities

Issue	Rank
Water Rate	LOWEST
Property Tax Rate	2nd LOWEST
Refuse Collection Rate	2nd LOWEST
Sanitary Sewer Rate	6th LOWEST
Stormwater Rate	2nd HIGHEST

In the last 30 years, the City of Dubuque has reduced the full-time employees complement by 5.3%. In six of these years, there was no water fee increase, 10 years there was no increase in the sanitary sewer fee, six of the years there was a refuse collection fee decrease and three of those years there was no increase. Nine years there was a property tax decrease and six years there was no increase. During this time, the average homeowner has seen an average annual increase of \$28.91. §

### Top 10 Capital Projects (1997-2017)

Project Description	Cost \$
Streets Project (Engineering/Public Works)	140,810,994
Southwest Arterial	98,300,000
America's River Project	70,674,035
Water & Resource Recovery Center	64,885,000
Parking Ramps	59,816,881
Bee Branch Creek Project	57,529,830
Sanitary Sewer	40,180,286
Airport Terminal Project	39,983,438
Industrial Parks	36,096,331
Stormwater	31,584,626
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$639,861,421</b>

## Tips for Sustainable Lawncare Practices

Spring yard work often includes lawn fertilization. Did you know that overuse of chemicals such as fertilizers can cause algae blooms in our local streams by raising nitrogen and phosphorous levels? These algae blooms lower the dissolved oxygen amounts that fish need to survive, which can lead to "fish kills."

Smarter management of the chemicals used on your lawn is one easy way to protect water quality, as well as the health of those who come into contact with the lawn.

When possible, consider completely avoiding pesticides and fertilizer use on your lawn. Best practices, such as setting your mower higher or substituting natural composts and mulches for harmful chemicals, can result in a beautiful and healthy lawn.

If you choose to use fertilizers and pesticides, avoid overuse of these chemicals by strictly following manufactures' application rates. You can also have your soil tested before buying fertilizer to avoid over-application of nutrients such as phosphorous or nitrogen.

For more information on having your soil tested, contact the Dubuque County Extension Office at 563-583-6496. For information regarding local water quality and what you can do to help, contact Dean Mattoon with the City of Dubuque Engineering Department at 563-589-4202 or [dmattoon@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:dmattoon@cityofdubuque.org).

Sustainable lawn care helps to implement the *Sustainable Dubuque* principles of Clean Water and Native Plants & Animals. §

## Special Event Permit Process Changes

The City requires a special event permit when a business, organization, or individual is scheduling an event that will take place on City property or the public right-of-way. A special event permit is also required if an event is scheduled on private property and will significantly impact public health or safety or the peace and quiet of a neighborhood due to the number of persons attending the event, use of outdoor music or amplified noise, and effect on traffic and parking.

There is a \$50 permit processing fee for applications submitted 60 or more days prior to the event. That fee will double to \$100 if the permit is obtained less than 30 days prior to the event. **However, there is no fee for neighborhood picnics.** Another change to the process is the requirement of non-profit organizations, such as churches, to obtain a special event permit for certain events such as parish festivals. Event coordinators can obtain a copy of the special event permit packet at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall at 50 W. 13th Street, or online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/specialevents](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/specialevents). For questions, call 563-589-4122. §

## New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

**David Boge**  
Transit

**Kristen Farrell**  
Library

**Kelly Goossen**  
Public Works

**Barbara Liska**  
Parks

**Daniel Mayne**  
Public Works

**Christopher Moquin**  
Airport

**Benjamin Pothoff**  
Housing & Comm. Development

**Randall Sertle**  
Public Works

**George Stephenson**  
Recreation

**Meghan Wagner**  
Parking

**Zorana Wortham-White**  
Recreation



## America's River Festival June 8-10, 2012

Musical entertainment includes:  
REO Speedwagon  
Starship featuring Mickey Thomas  
Justin Moore  
Marshall Tucker Band

For more information, visit  
[www.americasriverfestival.com](http://www.americasriverfestival.com)  
or call 563-557-9200.

# CALENDAR

## May

- 1 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Rm. I, City Hall Annex
- 5 City Parks Officially Open
- 7 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 7 Five Flags Commission Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center, 405 Main St.
- 8 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course snack bar
- 10 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 14 Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Rm. II, City Hall Annex
- 15 Housing Code Appeals Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Community Development Advisory Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 21 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Public Lacy Board Room
- 22 Housing Commission, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 24 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Lacy Board Room
- 26 Sutton and Flora pools officially open
- 28 City offices closed for Memorial Day (Trash and recycling collection on Saturday, May 26)

## June

- 4 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 4 Five Flags Commission Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center
- 5 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Rm. I, City Hall Annex
- 14 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 11 Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Rm. II, City Hall Annex
- 12 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course snack bar
- 18 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 19 Housing Code Appeals Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 20 Community Development Advisory Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 26 Housing Commission, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 26 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Lacy Board Room
- 28 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Lacy Board Room

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.  
Dubuque Jet Center: 11000 Airport Road

## Retirements

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

**Vicki Leonard**  
Emergency Communications

### 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 phone  
(563) 589-4149 fax  
[ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:ctymgr@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](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).