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.

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.

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 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. For more information, call the Leisure Services Department at 563-589-4263.
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.

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 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.

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, where you can vote for your favorite piece!

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. All permits are available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/constructionpermits.

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.
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, benefiting 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

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.

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 563-583-6496.  For information regarding local water quality and what you can do to help, contact Dean Mattoon with the City of Dubuque Engineering Department at 563-583-6496.  For information regarding local water quality and what you can do to help, contact Dean Mattoon with the City of Dubuque Engineering Department at 563-583-6496.  For information regarding local water quality and what you can do to help, contact Dean Mattoon with the City of Dubuque Engineering Department at 563-583-6496.  For information regarding local water quality and what you can do to help, contact Dean Mattoon with the City of Dubuque Engineering Department at 563-583-6496.
Retirements

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

Vicki Leonard
Emergency Communications

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

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
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.

May

1 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Rm. 1, 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 Library 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. 1, 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

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 or call 563-557-9200.

CALENDAR