

CITYnews



VOL. 12 ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Smart911 Service Enables More Informed Emergency Response

Dubuque residents and businesses now have the option to provide information to emergency responders prior to an emergency to enable faster and more informed responses to emergency situations.

The Dubuque County 9-1-1 Communications Center now offers "Smart911," a free service that allows participants to create a safety profile for their household or business that can include information they may want 9-1-1 dispatchers and first responders to have in the event of an emergency.

Safety profiles can include detailed information on household residents such as photos, medical or behavior conditions, and prescriptions. They can also include emergency contacts, pet information, vehicle details, utility information, and floor plans. Smart911 also allows participants to link both home and work addresses to mobile phones.

These details can be beneficial in situations where a caller cannot fully communicate. The service also gives dispatchers immediate access to information about medical issues, medications, and allergies to help avoid allergic reactions or dangerous medication combinations during emergency treatment. In the case of a missing child, a safety profile can display a recent photo and physical description for immediate distribution to law enforcement.



Smart911 is secure and private, and information submitted is only made available to 9-1-1 call takers and responders in the event a

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participant calls 9-1-1. All information is optional and participating households have the ability to choose what details to provide. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/smart911 or call 563-589-7856.

To create a Smart911 Safety Profile for your household or business, visit www.Smart911.com.

Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project

A watershed is an area of land that drains to the same place. Dubuque's Bee Branch Watershed drains to the Bee Branch Creek on the north side of the city. This watershed covers approximately 6.5 square miles — all within the city limits. It stretches approximately from the Mississippi River west past John F. Kennedy Road, north to the Northwest Arterial, and south to West Fifth Street.

The Bee Branch Watershed encompasses historic neighborhoods with some of the city's most affordable workforce housing. It also includes Dubuque's most developed areas where over 50 percent of Dubuque residents either live or work. Unfortunately, during significant rain events, this area is also

hardest hit with flash flooding that floods basements and sends stormwater rushing down streets from curb to curb — stalling vehicles, stranding motorists, displacing manhole covers, and damaging pavement, water mains, and stormwater and sanitary sewers. It impacts public infrastructure and services both within and outside the flood-impacted area. Direct public sector costs include emergency response activities, street and utility infrastructure repairs, and debris removal.

To address the flooding issues, the City has developed the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, a 20-year, \$179 million, multi-phased effort to decrease flooding, improve water quality, stimulate investment, and enhance quality of life within the entire watershed. The project was designed to prevent an estimated \$582 million in damages over the 100-year design life of the project

and create an incentive for individuals and businesses to reinvest in this vital area of our community. (The Bee Branch Creek Restoration, which is partially completed and scheduled for total completion in 2016, comprises two of the 12 phases of the watershed project.)

To help fund this major investment, the City of Dubuque applied for and was recently awarded over \$98 million from the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board in the form of state sales tax increment financing spread over the next 20 years. When combined with other state and federal grants and local donations, the City has received over \$127 million to help fund this project. Additional funding sources are being explored.

For more information on the Bee Branch Watershed Project, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch or call 563-589-4270.

New Tax Credit for Commercial and Industrial Properties

The offices of the Dubuque city assessor and county assessor are encouraging local commercial and industrial property owners to apply for a new **Business Property Tax Credit** approved by the Iowa Legislature. Interested applicants should apply at the Dubuque County Courthouse located at 720 Central Ave. by **Jan. 15, 2014**.

This program is available to commercial and industrial property owners to reduce business property taxes on bills issued in September 2014. The average savings from this tax credit is estimated at \$400 per property, but is dependent on the number of applicants statewide.

Applicants have the possibility of receiving multiple credits if they own other parcels, but must apply through the county or city assessor's office to ensure the process is completed correctly.

Apartment buildings are not included in the tax credit; however, the assessor's office will ask applicants to identify any apartments or living quarters in an otherwise business-occupied building. This information will help the office identify parts of structures that are used for

apartments or living quarters. Apartment buildings and any part of other business buildings that are used for apartments or living quarters will be moved to a new classification, Multi-Residential, for January 2015 assessments. This new classification will receive reductions in the rollback over each of the next 10 years until it is taxed the same as a single-family home.

Once signed at the courthouse, the tax credit application does not need to be renewed unless the property owner sells or subdivides the property. §

Tax Breaks for Property Improvements

Property owners who upgrade their residential properties located within a designated urban revitalization district may receive a 10-year exemption from the property tax increase that normally accompanies many improvements.

Feb. 3 is the deadline for applications from property owners in the following urban revitalization areas: Cathedral, Jackson, Langworthy, Manasseh House, Old Main, Salvia House, Upper Main, Washington Neighborhood and West 11th Street. To qualify, improvements must increase the assessed value of the property by at least 10 percent for single-family and 15 percent for multi-family properties. Owners of commercial property in the Washington Neighborhood Urban Revitalization District may be eligible for a three-year exemption.

Tax-assessable improvements include building additions, a new room, patio, porch, or deck. The addition of plumbing fixtures, installation of heating and electricity to unfinished rooms, and the installation of central air conditioning or a fireplace would be subject to property valuation as determined by the City Assessor.

Applications are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/urbanrevitalization or at the Housing and Community Development, 350 W. Sixth St., Suite 312. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 3. For more information, call 563-589-4239 or email ehaugen@cityofdubuque.org. §

Reminder for Rental Property Owners

The City of Dubuque is sponsoring an educational program for property owners and managers on all aspects of managing property with a special emphasis on how to reduce crime in rental property. Per City Code, all Dubuque rental property owners or their property managers must attend one of these program sessions (or a similar program of continuing education approved by the City Manager.) *Licensed real estate professionals or those who have already completed this program are exempt.*

The next training sessions will be held Thursday, March 6, and Saturday, March 22, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the NICC Town Clock Center, 680 Main Street. Registration can be completed online by visiting www.nicc.edu/solutions and entering "Crime Free Housing" in the search box, or call Northeast Iowa Community College at 563-557-8271, ext. 380. Additional information about the program, registration details, and training manual are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/dcfmhp. §

Interested in learning more about your local government?



City Life is a free program facilitated by city staff that provides residents an opportunity to become more informed on and engaged with their local government.

City Life explores 17 city departments through presentations and dialogues over a 10-week period with participants meeting once a week from 6 - 9 p.m.

The next session of City Life will be offered in March 2014. Applications for this free program will be available in February. Up to 25 residents can participate.

Detailed information and an online application are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/citylife. To request an application or for more information, please contact:

Nikola Pavelic
Community Engagement Coordinator
563-589-4182
npavelic@cityofdubuque.org

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast

The City of Dubuque, along with faces & voices and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, invite you to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday breakfast on **Monday, Jan. 20**, at the Grand River Center. Check-in begins at 7 a.m. and the program begins at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 12 and under. Pre-registration required by Jan. 13 at www.dbqfoundation.org/MLK or by calling 563-588-2700. Keynote speaker is Alex M. David, Financial Analyst for Wells Fargo. §

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of Greater Dubuque





A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

What makes you feel most connected to Dubuque? The Knight Foundation's "Soul of the Community" project found that three main qualities attach people to place: social offerings, the area's aesthetics or physical appearance, and the overall openness and welcoming nature of that area.

Being an open and welcoming community is often what separates thriving communities from those in decline perhaps because it has a tremendous impact on retaining and attracting employers and jobs — as well as the workforce they require. In fact, Iowa's lack of qualified workers is the top reason businesses choose not to expand, according to a 2013 survey of more than 7,000 Iowa companies conducted by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Following meetings with 280 area business owners, CEOs, and top managers over the last year, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation reports that, "workforce challenges have solidified as the #1 barrier to growth for Dubuque area businesses. Workforce problems are also cited as the #1 reason for considering expansion outside of Dubuque."

A recent Telegraph Herald editorial, "Inclusivity a key ingredient in jobs recipe," concluded that "to attract people from the rest of the world to come to this community to work and live, this community needs to be attractive to a diverse population." The editorial also noted that, for Dubuque to even maintain current employment levels — let alone show growth — we need to be a leader in attracting people from the rest of the world.

At a recent event in Dubuque, a personnel executive for a major corporation advised the audience that, over the next 10 years, U.S. companies are going to have the need for 30 million college graduates, but U.S. colleges will only turn out 20 million graduates. There will be intense competition for these people.

Here in Dubuque there is the attitude that the community has a responsibility to help local companies win that competition by creating an atmosphere that retains graduates from local colleges and attracts college graduates from outside this area.

Many of these people will be your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins; but for many, Dubuque will be at first an unfamiliar place.

Inclusive Dubuque, a new partnership with support from the private and public sectors, was launched in October to address this challenge. Inclusive Dubuque is a local initiative dedicated to having a vibrant and welcoming community to ensure the Dubuque region's success today and into the future. It is focused on six areas:

Welcoming Community: Have an environment where all people feel respected, valued, and engaged.

Quality of Life: Where everyone has access to resources and can enjoy a sense of well-being and belonging.

Economic Development: Attract and retain global talent to position the community for continual economic growth.

Culturally Competent Education System: Partnering to encourage the use of an intercultural approach to educate by honoring one's own culture and valuing other cultures, through civility, compassion, and respect.

Open Communication: Build a culture to focus on respecting and understanding all perspectives, while seeking common ground.

Community Engagement: Openly exchange ideas and opportunities to contribute to, strengthen, and support an inclusive community.

Like most communities, Dubuque has changing demographics. How we respond to those changes will determine Dubuque's future success. These changes offer the opportunity to share, learn, and grow from our individual experiences, connect with people, and strengthen our community.

As Mayor Roy D. Buol stated at the Inclusive Dubuque launch event in October, "We have the opportunity to preserve all that is good about our city, while taking the next crucial step to ensure that every person who lives and visits here feels welcomed, respected, valued, and supported." If you are interested in learning more about Inclusive Dubuque, I encourage you to visit www.inclusivedubq.org or call Inclusive Dubuque Coordinator Jessica Rose at 563-588-2700. §

FISCAL YEAR 2015 CITY BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE:

The City Council will hold a series of public meetings to review City department/division budget details as part of the recommended budget review process. A final public hearing to adopt the FY 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets will then be held on March 5.

The public is invited to attend and provide input at these meetings which are also aired live on Dubuque's CityChannel (analog channel 8, digital channel 85.2) on the Mediacom cable system and streamed live and archived on the City's website at www.cityofdubuque.org/media. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Historic Federal Building at 350 W. Sixth St.

Monday, Feb. 10 - Health Services, City Attorney's Office, City Manager's Office, Budget, Personnel, Public Information Office, City Council, City Clerk, Cable TV

Wednesday, Feb. 12 - Library, Human Rights, Planning Services, Airport, Finance, Information Services

Thursday, Feb. 13 - Housing & Community Development, Economic Development, Parking, Transit

Tuesday, Feb. 18 - Water, Water & Resource Recovery, Public Works, Engineering

Thursday, Feb. 20 - Purchase of Service, Parks, Recreation, Five Flags, Conference Center

Monday, Feb. 24 - Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, Fire, Police, Building Services

Wednesday, March 5 - Public Hearing to Adopt the FY 15 Budget

Snow Route Parking

Dubuque's designated odd/even snow routes 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.

Enforcement of the policy is announced at least six hours in advance through area media. To receive an email and/or text when the policy is in effect, residents may also subscribe to the Odd/Even Snow Route Parking "Notify Me" list at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme. To receive a phone call, you can add your phone number to the database by visiting www.cityofdubuque.org and clicking on the "CodeRED" logo. More information at www.cityofdubuque.org/snowroute. §

Prevent Water Meters from Freezing

The Water Department reminds you to make sure that the plumbing and water meter in your home or business are both 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. §



New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- Jessica Arnold** - Library
- Charles Harris** - Parking
- Jacob Hedley** - Parking
- Matthew Herman** - Public Works
- Maurice Jones** - Economic Development
- Joshua Michelson-King** - Airport
- Gavyn Samuelson** - Airport
- Samantha Schueller** - Police

Retirements

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

- Deb Fliegel** - Library
- Chuck Goddard** - Public Works
- Tim Moler** - Housing
- Paul Schultz** - Public Works
- John Young** - Library

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 twitter.com/CityOfDubuque

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

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.

January

- 1 City Offices closed for New Year's Day. Curbside collection on Saturday, Jan. 4.
- 2 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 5-26 Hempstead Pool public open swimming, Sundays 1-4 p.m., adult lap swim/waterwalking 4-5 p.m.
- 6-17 Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Recycling Program and Yard Waste Collection. Call 589-4250 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks for details.
- 6 Leisure Services winter activities registration begins
- 6 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 7 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 8 Cable TV Commission, 4 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 The Jule 101 Informal Drop-In Session, 4:30-5:30, C-S Public Library
- 14 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course snack bar
- 15 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 15 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 16 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 18 Bald Eagle Watch, 9 a.m., Grand River Center, 500 Bell St.
- 20 City Offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Curbside collection on Saturday, Jan 18.
- 21 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 21 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 22 Investment Oversight Advisory Commission, 3 p.m., Conf. Rm. A, City Hall
- 23 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 23 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Library auditorium
- 27 Five Flags Advisory Commission, 4 p.m., Five Flags Center, 405 Main St.
- 27 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 27 Summer 2013 adult softball & volleyball league registration information available
- 28 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 28 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library

February

- 2-23 Hempstead Pool public open swimming, Sundays 1-4 p.m., adult lap swim/waterwalking 4-5 p.m.
- 3 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 4 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 5 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I City Hall Annex
- 5 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
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- 19 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 20 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 24 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 25 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 27 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 27 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room

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.