

CITYnews

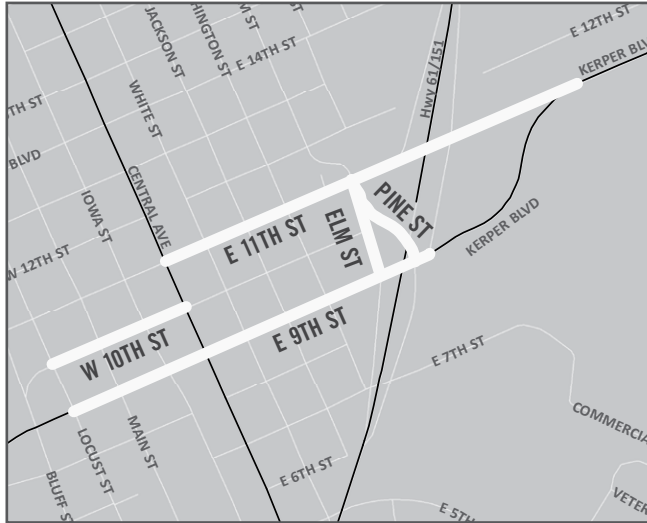


VOL. 12 ISSUE 4

JULY/AUGUST 2014

Two-way Traffic Coming to Four Downtown Streets in August

Motorists are reminded to be aware of some changes to downtown traffic flow as the one-way to two-way conversion of four downtown Dubuque streets is expected to be completed in mid-August. The City will have traffic control and additional signs alerting motorists of the change approximately two weeks before the conversion occurs.



The one-way to two-way conversion involves 9th Street (between Locust Street and Kerper Boulevard), 11th Street (between Central Avenue and Kerper Boulevard), Pine Street (between 9th and 11th Streets), and 10th Street (between Locust Street and Central Avenue). The project primarily involves new traffic signals, pavement striping, and signage.

For additional information on these projects, contact the Engineering Department at 563-589-4270 or engineering@cityofdubuque.org. To receive text and email updates on city street closures and detours and view related maps, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/detours.

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10-Day Closure Planned for Julien Dubuque Bridge

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) plans to close the Julien Dubuque Bridge for 10 days in late July. The bridge's deck joints will be replaced and the bridge's barrier rail will be sealed. The Iowa DOT will announce the exact dates of the closure when those plans are finalized.

During the closure, motorists traveling to East Dubuque and Illinois will be detoured to the Dubuque-Wisconsin Bridge and will be directed to enter Illinois via Wisconsin Highway 11 and Wisconsin/Illinois Highway 35. §

Free Assistance with Health Insurance Options

New health insurance opportunities are available and Crescent Community Health Center can help you understand your options. Certified Application Counselors are available to assist you. Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (Medicaid) applications will be taken year round. Please call Angela at (563) 552-8080 or Laura at (563) 690-2856 to schedule your appointment today. §



Reporting Concerns of Discrimination

Did you know that your local City of Dubuque Human Rights Department is the place for you to report concerns of discrimination? If you have experienced or witnessed a situation that you think was discriminatory, unfair, or disrespectful, the Human Rights Department would like to know.

Please contact the Human Rights Department if:

- you believe you have been discriminated against and you want to protect your legal rights. Staff will review your concerns and inform you of steps you can take to file a formal legal complaint of discrimination to be investigated by the City Attorney's office.
- you believe that what you have experienced or witnessed is wrong. Even if you do not want to pursue legal remedies, you can still report your concern. We encourage you to report whatever discriminatory or disrespectful behavior you have experienced or witnessed because patterns in these reports can help us determine where we should focus our prevention efforts in the community.

There are a variety of ways to reach the Human Rights Department. If you would prefer to submit your concerns online, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/humanrights and click on the "Report a Concern" link. These pages also provide background information on the types of behaviors that are illegal. If you prefer to speak with someone, please call Intake Specialist Carol Spinoso at 563-589-4190 to discuss your concerns over the phone or to schedule a time to meet with her in person. §



City offices will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day. There will be no refuse collection on Friday, July 4. Friday routes will instead be collected on Saturday, July 5.

D □ B □ Q □ E

"U" make Dubuque.

Connected and informed residents are critical to local government.

City Life is a free program that provides you with an opportunity to create a personal connection with your local government, share experiences as a Dubuque resident, visit city facilities, learn about the different services departments provide, and contribute to your community in a way that matters to you.

CityLife

DISCOVER | INTERACT | SHARE

www.cityofdubuque.org/citylife

Contact Nikola at 563-589-4182 or npavelic@cityofdubuque.org

Next session
begins
September 4!

Avoid Sewer Charges for Outside Watering

As temperatures rise, so does the potential need for watering gardens and lawns, filling pools, and other outside water use. In homes where only one meter is installed, water and sewer fees are charged on all water used. A water-only meter can be installed in addition to the main meter to measure water that does not end up in the sanitary sewer system. Sewer charges are not billed on this meter. Customers must purchase the water-only metering equipment and have it installed by a licensed plumber. Contact your plumber for purchasing options and, remember, a plumbing permit is required. A minimum monthly charge for this additional meter applies. Contact the Utility Billing department at 563-589-4144 or utilityb@cityofdubuque.org with any questions.

There is an alternative option for filling swimming pools within the city limits. The City of Dubuque Water Department will fill a pool as long as there is a fire hydrant within 500 feet of the pool. Call 563-589-4304 at least a day in advance to request this service. The cost is \$25 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours, and \$0.35 per 100 gallons plus tax. §

New Utility Rates Take Effect July 1

The City's 2015 fiscal year begins July 1, 2014, and with it, new utility user fees and rates go into effect. Utility bills for water, sanitary sewer, and refuse collection received in August will reflect the new rates approved in March as part of the budget process.

Based on the average Dubuque residential utility customer, the average combined total increase in these monthly utility costs will be approximately \$3.62 per month.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/utilitybilling or contact Utility Billing at 563-589-4144 or utilityb@cityofdubuque.org. §

FY2015 Average Residential Rates	
Service	Monthly Rate
Water	\$24.36
Property Tax	\$11.03 per \$1,000
Refuse Collection	\$13.24
Sanitary Sewer	\$33.58
Stormwater	\$5.98



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

The City of Dubuque uses debt strategically for major projects with long-term community benefits. (Unlike the federal government, the City does not use debt for operating expenses and, in fact, is required by state code to have a balanced operating budget every year.) Each time the City borrows money for capital projects, the City's finances are carefully reviewed and its creditworthiness is rated.

Moody's Investor Services is an international provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis. Moody's uses symbols to rate creditworthiness, with each symbol representing a group with similar credit characteristics. There are nine symbols used to designate least credit risk to those with the greatest credit risk: Aaa, Aa, A, Baa, Ba, B, Caa, Ca, and C. Moody's also appends numerical modifiers (1, 2, and 3) to each generic rating classification from.

Moody's has upgraded the City of Dubuque's general obligation bond rating twice since 2002. In April 2010, Moody's upgraded the City of Dubuque's general obligation (GO) bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1, the second-highest rating available from Moody's which says, "Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk." In September 2012, Moody's again reviewed Dubuque's rating and confirmed the Aa1 rating. The Moody's 2012 analysis said assignment of the Aa1 rating reflected the City's role as a regional service

and retail provider in northeastern Iowa and neighboring states; satisfactory reserves despite recent cash funding of capital projects; and an above-average debt burden supported by alternate non-levy revenue sources.

In April, Moody's adjusted Dubuque's general obligation bond rating one level, from the second-highest rating available (Aa1) to the third-highest (Aa2), following Moody's implementation of a new rating methodology. According to Moody's, "Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk."

Dubuque is one of 256 U.S. local governments placed under review by Moody's several months ago as a result of Moody's decision to change its rating methodology. Moody's new methodology increases the weight in overall assessment on debt and pensions to 20 percent from 10 percent, decreases the weight on economic factors to 30 percent from 40 percent, and introduces a scorecard for U.S. local governments to enhance the transparency of key rating considerations.

Dubuque was one of seven other Iowa cities and one county whose general obligation debt was placed under review for possible downgrade. As of March 31, the ratings of the following Iowa cities have been downgraded following the rating methodology change: Ames (Aaa to Aa1),

Bettendorf (Aa1 to Aa2), Cedar Rapids (Aaa to Aa1), Davenport (Aa2 to Aa3), Des Moines (Aaa to Aa1), and Sioux City (Aa1 to Aa2). The vast majority of Moody's public finance rating changes in recent years have been downgrades, accounting for 79 percent in 2013 and 82 percent in 2012.

One of the major rating factors that Moody's has added is a community's pension liabilities. In the case of Dubuque, all employee pensions are part of the state-wide pension system, of which Dubuque has no control over the composition of the pension benefits, the amount the City or the employee pays into the pension system, or the investment practices of the pension system. State legislators determine the benefit levels and the allowed contribution levels and the Pension Board determines the investment practices. However, Moody's new rating system holds individual communities liable for any underfunding in the state pension systems.

Your city government is financially sound and is providing services with citizens getting value for their tax dollar. In recent years, the City has taken on debt incrementally to fund major infrastructure projects for storm water management, wastewater treatment, parking improvements, water distribution, and economic development. In my opinion, these are all critical undertakings that could not be delayed and, in fact, took advantage of historically low interest rates. Any project delays would have increased costs due to inflation and further deterioration of infrastructure. I do not expect the anticipated credit rating downgrade to significantly impact Dubuque. A one-level downgrade has a minor effect on the interest rate of future borrowing for capital improvement projects. §

Tampering with Water Meter Reading System Prohibited



The Water Department reminds residents that tampering with the MIU (meter interface unit) located on the exterior of a home or building is prohibited and may result in a \$50

fine plus repair costs and a service fee. MIUs should not be painted or covered as doing so impacts long-term maintenance of the system.

The MIU collects and transmits water usage data to data collectors throughout the city, and was installed during the city-wide meter replacement project completed in 2011. If a water meter, wire, or MIU needs to be relocated or detached from your home or business, (for painting or residing, for example) please contact the Water Department at 563-589-4304 and a staff person will disconnect and reconnect it free of charge. §

National Night Out

A good night to get to know
your neighbors



Help build a stronger, safer community by attending the annual National Night Out on **Tuesday, August 5**, from 6-8 p.m. at Comiskey Park (24th & Jackson Streets)

Free Games * Food * Fun for the whole family!

Signs Not Allowed in Public Right-of-Way

The City of Dubuque reminds residents that signs in the public right-of-way are prohibited. This includes signs mounted to street signs, public or private utility poles, and trees in the public right-of-way. Signs should be placed on one's own private property only. The public right-of-way is typically the area between the sidewalk and the street. In addition, a number of other regulations apply to signs and may be specific to where you live. Before you place any signs, it's best to call the Planning Services Department at 563-589-4210. §



No one plans to dial 911, but if you do, having a Smart911 profile can provide crucial information to responders. **Create yours today at smart911.com.**



New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Benjamin Adlen - Recreation

Thomas Ammon - Police

Brian Cue - Water & Resource Recovery Center

Brian Feldott - Recreation

Retirements

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

Elmer Heacock - Public Works

 [facebook.com/CityofDubuque](https://www.facebook.com/CityofDubuque)

 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:

City Manager's Office
50 W. 13th Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864
(563) 589-4110 phone
(563) 589-4149 fax
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.

CALENDAR

July

- 1 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room 1, City Hall Annex
- 2 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 2 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 4 City offices closed for Independence Day (refuse collection on Sat, July 5)
- 7 City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 8 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar
- 9 Tot Olympics, ages 3-5, Allison-Henderson Park, 6 p.m.
- 10 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 14 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 15 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 16 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Water Carnival, Flora Pool, ages 5-14, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 21 City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 22 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 23 Investment Oversight Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., Conf. Rm. A, City Hall
- 23 City-wide Playground Carnival, Allison-Henderson Park, 6-8 p.m.
- 24 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Library auditorium
- 24 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 28 Five Flags Advisory Commission, 3:30 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center
- 28 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 31 City-wide Amateur Night, Allison-Henderson Park, 6:15 p.m.

August

- 1 Lighted Boat Parade, Port of Dubuque Marina, approx. 9 p.m.
- 4 City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 4, 11, 18, 25 Home Ownership Made Easy Workshop, Historic Federal Building, 5:30-7 p.m., call 563-589-4239 to register
- 5 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room 1, City Hall Annex
- 5 National Night Out, Comiskey Park, 6-8 p.m.
- 6 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 6 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 11 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 12 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar
- 14 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Final day for swimming at Sutton Pool
- 18 City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 19 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 20 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
- 20 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 21 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 23 Final day for swimming at Flora Pool
- 25 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 26 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 26 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 28 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 28 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m., Historic Federal Building

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 Rd.