

CITYnews



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Enjoy Winter Outdoors in Dubuque

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter activities at Bunker Hill Golf Course and Eagle Point Park. These activities are allowed in all of Dubuque's parks and along the city's trail systems when the areas are completely covered with snow. Bunker Hill Golf Course requires a minimum of three inches of snow cover and it is requested that users stay off of tees and greens. (Tees are level, rectangular areas with wooden posts nearby, and greens are level, circular areas which are susceptible to snow compaction damage.) Specific trails are not groomed so come enjoy and be the first one to create a new trek. Enjoy your time out in the fresh air from sunrise to sunset.



Ice Skating

Allison-Henderson Park is home to Dubuque's lighted outdoor skating rink, located at the corner of North Grandview Ave. and Loras Blvd. The rink is equipped

with two goals for hockey games but can also be enjoyed for free skating. This unsupervised rink is available to groups or individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. The rink is open from 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. daily. Lights are available from 4 - 9:30 p.m., and the switch is located on a gray electrical utility box along Nowata St. Restroom facilities are not available during winter months.

Sledding

Dubuque received national media attention in January when the city joined a growing list of communities across the country taking steps to address safety and liability concerns related

to sledding and other winter activities on city-owned properties. A related City of Dubuque ordinance was revised in early January and again in February. The ordinance limits sledding on city-owned property to designated areas in 11 city parks. **The ordinance only applies to activities on city-owned properties and does NOT apply to private property or public property owned by other governmental entities.**

The ordinance was revised due to safety and liability concerns and **does not ban sledding** but instead restricts sledding, downhill skiing, snowboarding, or tobogganing on city-owned property to the parks listed in the shaded box. *Additionally, the ordinance prohibits riding inner tubes on city-owned public property.*

Communities across the country are considering similar restrictions after accidents



IN THIS ISSUE

- | 2 | Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Update
Purchase of Services Grant Applications Available
Taste of the World
'While You Wait' Book Lending Program
Building Permits Required for Home Improvements
City Life
2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Leisure Services Job Opportunities
- | 3 | City Manager's Message
- | 4 | Public Works Reminders
Calendar
New Faces and Retirements

on city-owned property resulted in significant injuries, lawsuits, and large financial settlements against some communities in recent years. Examples include Boone, Iowa (\$12 million); Sioux City, Iowa (\$2.75 million); and Omaha, Nebraska (\$2.4 million).

Dubuque residents requesting that additional city-owned parks and property be approved for sledding can submit those requests to the leisure services department for consideration.

For additional background information on the revised sledding ordinance, including documents and links to recorded City Council meetings, safe sledding tips, and a form to request consideration of additional parks for sledding, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/sledding or call 563-589-4263. §

Designated Sledding Parks (signs are posted to indicate designated areas)

- Allison-Henderson Park
- Bunker Hill Golf Course
- Comiskey Park
- Flat Iron Park
- Gay Park
- Grant Park
- Orange Park
- Pinard Park
- Usha Park
- Valentine Park
- Washington Park

Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Update

The City of Dubuque will begin work on the Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration during the 2015 construction season. The two-part project will begin at Garfield Avenue and progress north to East 24th Street near Comiskey Park.

Part one of the project includes the removal of the buried Bee Branch storm sewer which will be replaced with a 2,300-foot long creek and green space. This portion also includes two vehicular bridges located at Rhomborg Avenue and East 22nd Street, utility relocations, parking, a multiuse trail, a stepped amphitheater, a play area with slides, a community orchard, and the East 24th Street headwaters and overlook.

Part two of the project involves the Canadian Pacific railroad property and the placement of large diameter pipes under the railroad yard. The pipes will allow stormwater to drain more efficiently



Artist rendering of Upper Bee Branch - View from East 24th St. facing southeast.

from the Upper Bee Branch Creek to the existing Lower Bee Branch Creek and 16th Street Detention Basin.

To receive Bee Branch Project-related updates and alerts, subscribe to the Bee Branch Notify Me at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme, like the project on Facebook at www.facebook.com/beebranchdbq and/or follow it on Twitter at www.twitter.com/beebranchdbq. For more information, call 563-690-6068. §

Purchase of Services Grant Applications Available

The City of Dubuque is now accepting Purchase of Services Grant program applications. Purchase of Services Grant Program is designed to provide support for human service programs in Dubuque that further the City's goals, objectives, and priorities. Not-for-profit organizations located in Dubuque providing year-round human service programs are eligible to apply. Applications are available online through the month of March at www.cityofdubuque.org/CDBG or contact Erica Haugen, Community Development Specialist, at 563-589-4212 for more information. §

'While You Wait' Library Program for Businesses and Organizations

Does your business or organization have a waiting room? Take advantage of the "While You Wait" program offered by Carnegie-Stout Public Library. We will stock your waiting rooms with gently used books that your visitors can read and take with them to finish and pass on to someone when finished. Both children's and adult books are available. Call the Carnegie-Stout Public Library today to sign up for this free service at 563-589-4313. §

Building Permits Required for Home Improvements

Home improvement season is just around the corner! As a reminder, many home improvement projects require building permits. Roofing, siding, window replacements, retaining walls, decks, fences (7 feet or higher), 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 call the Building Services Department at 563-589-4150. §

Taste of the World - Celebrating Dubuque's Diversity

Sat., April 18 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Five Flags Civic Center, 405 Main St.

Experience and celebrate Dubuque's multicultural community at our sixth annual event! Enjoy cultural displays, performances, and food samples from over 20 countries. Suggested donation for admission is \$5 per person or \$15 per family at the door. Admission includes a beverage, food samples, entertainment, and children's activities. All funds go toward programming provided by the Multicultural Family Center. Tickets are available at the door.





CityLife

DISCOVER | INTERACT | SHARE

Connections between residents and government are critical!

Apply today for the Spring 2015 session.

www.cityofdubuque.org/citylife
563.589.4182

2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for a FREE family-friendly Easter Egg hunt at the Mystique Community Ice Center at 1800 Admiral Sheehy Dr., on Saturday, March 21, from 10:30 a.m.

- 12:30 p.m. The egg hunt starts at 10:30 a.m. and is followed by free open skating and activities. No registration required. Sponsored by the Leisure Services Dept. §



Leisure Services Hiring Seasonal Positions!

A variety of seasonal positions are open. Apply by April 1. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/jobs.



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

IBM

IBM came to Dubuque in 2009 and has spent \$250 million in our local economy during that period, mostly on salaries and benefits. IBM was also the driving force behind the \$43 million renovation of the nine-story, 300,000 square-foot Roshek Building, completed by Dubuque Initiatives. This is the largest office building in downtown Dubuque.

Recently IBM announced a corporate restructuring. IBM said, "At a time when IBM is aggressively transforming, the company continues to balance its workforce to meet the changing requirements of its clients and to lead in the new, high-value segments of the IT industry, including cloud, analytics, mobile, security, social and cognitive computing. This is not new news. IBM announced a \$600 million workforce rebalancing change in Q4, 2014."

In our discussions with IBM, they have reaffirmed their commitment to Dubuque and, in fact, they recently extended their lease in the Roshek Building by five years.

Approximately 200 of our friends and neighbors were laid off in February 2015. IBM's workforce in Dubuque is now estimated at about 650 employees, making IBM one of the largest employers in Dubuque.

This is devastating news for these 200 people, but I do want to offer some ray of hope. First, know that the City, the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, Iowa Workforce Development, and others will be doing everything in our power to help you find another job. You have exceptional and marketable skills and there are Dubuque employers who are looking for your talents. Accessdubuquejobs.com has nearly 1,500 positions posted on the site by local employers. In addition, during the first week of February, three local companies (Cottingham & Butler, Kunkel & Associates, and Hirschbach Motor Lines) announced expansion plans that will create over 100 new job opportunities. Rockfarm is currently constructing a new corporate headquarters in the Dubuque Technology Park and will add 50 new positions.

These are specific opportunities available right now, but let me also give you some big picture information about the health of the local economy.

In December 2014 there were 61,700 people working in Dubuque County with a 3.9% unemployment rate. This is 1,800 net new jobs

over December 2013, over 3% growth, one of the highest growths of all state metropolitan areas. When you compare this to the lows of the 1980s, over 24% unemployment, 37,700 people working in Dubuque County, you can tell how much work has gone into achieving these results. With just 3% of Iowa's population, Dubuque County achieved 8.1% of the state's net job growth over the last five years (2009-2013).

Average Hourly Wage in Dubuque County: The average hourly wage in Dubuque County rose from \$18.00 in 2007 to \$23.38 in 2013, an increase of 30% that exceeded inflation by 17.5%.

The national average hourly wage rose from \$20.95 in 2007 to \$23.96 in 2013, an increase of only 14.4% that exceeded inflation by just 2%. In 2007, the average hourly wage in Dubuque County (\$18) was 14.1% below the national average hourly wage (\$20.95). In 2013, the average hourly wage in Dubuque County (\$23.38) was only 2.4% below the national average hourly wage (\$23.96).

The Iowa Economic Development Authority said the average hourly wage in Dubuque County grew by 103% from 1991 to 2014, exceeding inflation by 29%.

Employment: Dubuque County's total employment for 1983 was 37,700 and reached 61,700 in December 2014, a 64% (24,000) increase in just over 31 years.

Unemployment: Dubuque County's unemployment rate for 2013 was 4.5% while the nation's was 7.4%. Dubuque County's unemployment rate for November 2014 was just 3.5% while Iowa's rate was 4.3% and the nation's was 5.8%.

Per Capita Income: Between 2000 and 2013, Dubuque's per capita income rose by 33.9%, exceeding the national growth by 3.5%.

Median Household Income: In 2000, Dubuque's Median Household Income (MHI) (\$39,582) was 6% below the national MHI (\$41,994). In 2012, Dubuque's MHI (\$50,885) was just 1% below the national MHI (\$51,017.)

Know that we will be here to support you in this time of employment transition.

The Jule

I recently attended a meeting of all employees of The Jule transit system. Teamsters Local # 120 business agent Kevin Saylor and The Jule union

steward Mike Feltes had worked with Director of Transit Operations Candace Eudaley-Loebach to create a new "Driver of the Year" award, one for a fixed-route driver and one for a mini-bus driver. The unique aspect was that the winners are selected by a vote of other drivers. The criteria are driver safety, customer service, care for equipment, communication skills, and relationship with co-workers and management.

I was proud to participate in honoring the award recipients, Steve Heinz for the fixed-route service (driving since 2001) and Barry Gibson for the mini-bus service (driving since 2013). I hope you will congratulate them in the future.

Steve and Barry have participated in the transformation of The Jule bus system over the last five years, engineered by the City and the contract manager, East Central Intergovernmental Association.

The system has received grants to replace all the buses and to build a new intermodal transportation facility and bus barn. Over the last five years, there has been a 28% increase in ridership. There has been an increase of 140,000 miles driven while experiencing a 20% drop in accidents. In 2011, there was one accident every 17,529 miles driven and in 2014 there was one accident for every 26,412 miles driven. Over the last two years, there has been a 40% drop in expenses related to accidents. Now these are some great results!

Budget

The Fiscal Year 2016 budget recommendation was presented to the City Council on Feb. 2, 2015. The continued drop in gaming revenues caused by increased competition from slot machines in taverns in Illinois, property tax reform in Iowa, and many other contributing factors has meant my budget recommendation included increases in taxes and fees, with the property tax rate staying the same for the third year in a row. The average commercial/business property will see a 7.49% drop in property taxes and the average industrial property will see a 6.68% decrease, with much of that property tax revenue loss reimbursed by the State of Iowa.

To mitigate the impact on the taxpayer, I recommended eliminating 14.9 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for a budget savings of \$647,438. I also recommended continuing the City's hiring freeze through June 30, 2016 for 11.98 FTE positions for a budget savings of \$751,479. There is also a restriction on travel for continuing education for City staff, resulting in a budget savings of \$431,000. Finally, non-bargaining unit City employees would not receive a pay raise in FY2016, resulting in a budget saving of \$487,913.

For information on the budget, please call 563-589-4110 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2016budget.

Refuse Cans & Recycling Bins

To keep them from getting run over in the street or blown by the wind into the next neighborhood, please put your refuse cans and recycling bins in a safe place as soon as possible after they have been emptied.

Yard Debris/Food Scrap Collection

Seasonal yard debris and food scrap collection for current subscribers starts Monday, April 6. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 563-589-4250 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks.

New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Almira Covic - Library

Brandon Gudenkauf - Police

Brian Heim - Public Works

Gregory Parker - Transit

Nicole Salazar - Police

Jeffrey Schmidt - Transit

Emily Schultz - Library

Daniel Sisler - Public Works

John Smith - Public Works

Nathan Wall - Police

Temika Williams - Transit

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

Michelle Hellmer - Library

Thomas Ready - Fire

 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:

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Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864
(563) 589-4110 phone
ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org



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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.

March

- 2 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 3 FY16 Budget Public Hearing #5, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers
- 3 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 4 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 4 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 5 Successful Rental Property Management Program training, NICC Town Clock Center. Register at www.nicc.edu/solutions or call 563-557-8271, ext. 380.
- 9 Human Rights Commission, 3:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 10 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar
- 12 Public Hearing to Adopt FY16 Budget, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 12 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 14 Successful Rental Property Management Program training, NICC Town Clock Center. Register at www.nicc.edu/solutions or call 563-557-8271, ext. 380.
- 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, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
- 18 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 19 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 21 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mystique Community Ice Center
- 23 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 24 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 24 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 25 Statewide Tornado Drill, 10 a.m.
- 26 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 26 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room

April

- 1 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 1 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 6 Weekly yard waste and food scrap collection resumes. Call 589-4250 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/curbsidecollection for more information.
- 6 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 7 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 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, 3:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 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 Building
- 16 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 18 Taste of the World Cultural Celebration, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Five Flags Arena
- 20 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 21 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Investment Oversight Advisory Committee Meeting, 3 p.m., Conf. Room A, City Hall
- 23 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 23 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 27 Five Flags Civic Center Commission, 3:30 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center
- 27 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 28 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 28 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library

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.