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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Dubuque Building Services Manager Retiring**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – City of Dubuque Building Services Manager Rich Russell will retire on Wednesday, Sept. 30. A reception will be held for Russell beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the River Room of the Grand River Center, 500 Bell Street. The public is invited to attend.

Russell has served the City in this position since April 1999. Under Russell's leadership, the building services department implemented a new software system to upgrade its permitting system from triplicate forms to an electronic format. Additionally, the City adopted and implemented the use of the local Historic Building Code. Russell said one of the highlights of his career with the City was being involved in the planning and construction phases of the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. He is a past president of the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association and a past president of the Iowa Association of Building Officials.

A search is underway for Russell's replacement and is expected to be completed by Dec. 1, 2015. City Manager Mike Van Milligen has appointed Assistant City Manager Cindy Steinhauser to serve as acting building services manager, in addition to her current responsibilities, from Oct. 1, 2015, until a permanent building services manager is in place.

The building services department consists of 9 staff and is responsible for the inspection of building construction projects including structural elements, plumbing, heating and cooling, and electrical systems. The department also reviews plans for these projects before permits can be issued. The building services department also handles code enforcement related to: the readily achievable aspects of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), contractor licensing,

storage trailers/containers registration, commercial vacant and abandoned buildings (VABs), demolition by neglect in historic and conservation districts, and the unsafe buildings ordinance. The department is also responsible for supervision of the City's five custodial staff who maintains City Hall, the City Hall Annex, Historic Federal Building, and Multicultural Family Center.

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