

# CITYnews

THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

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MARCH/APRIL 2016

## Dubuque Awarded \$31.5 Million in Disaster Resiliency Funds

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Dubuque \$31.5 million to assist Bee Branch Watershed homeowners in repairing and “flood-proofing” their homes and for stormwater infrastructure improvements.



The City of Dubuque partnered with the State of Iowa to apply for federal funds through the final phase of the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), which invited communities that have experienced natural disasters in 2011, 2012, or 2013 to compete for funds to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters. HUD awarded a total of \$96.9 million to Iowa and its “Iowa Watershed Approach.” There were approximately 80 applications from across the country with only 13 receiving funding, with Iowa receiving the fourth-highest allocation.

Dubuque’s portion of the application highlighted the need to address remaining impacts from the flooding experienced in downtown Dubuque and continuing vulnerabilities to future flooding. The grant funds will help with home maintenance and renovations to decrease environmental health and safety issues from flooding such as dampness and mold growth,

electrical hazards, and structural issues. A comprehensive “Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program” was outlined to help Dubuque residents meet unmet structural needs and empower individuals to be part of the creation of more resilient housing through onsite stormwater management principles and sustainable, healthy homes behaviors. More specifically, Dubuque’s portion of the application detailed the following components:

- **Single & Multi-Unit, Rental and Owner-Occupied Residential Rehabilitations:**

The proposed program includes \$8.4 million for the rehabilitation of 320 housing units, including owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units, all within the targeted Bee Branch Watershed areas. The program’s rehabilitation projects are expected to generate significant work for local contractors and vendors. The City’s contribution to this component of the project will be \$800,000 in already budgeted Lead and Healthy Homes Program funds.

- **Bee Branch Railroad Culvert Infrastructure Improvements:**

The City received \$9 million in NDRC funds toward an \$18 million project to install six 8-foot diameter culverts to convey stormwater from the Upper Bee Branch Creek (currently under construction) through Canadian Pacific railroad right-of-way to the Lower Bee Branch Creek. The total cost for this component of the Bee Branch Project is estimated at \$18 million, with the remaining funds already in the City budget.

- **West Locust Street Storm Sewer Improvements:**

These improvements total \$2.6 million and will increase the capacity

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of the West Locust Street corridor stormwater management system by constructing a storm sewer from 17th Street toward Rosedale Avenue.

- **Kaufmann Avenue Storm Sewer Improvements:** These improvements total \$11.5 million and will increase capacity of the stormwater management system in this area (from Central Avenue to Kane Street) by constructing a storm sewer with 80 stormwater drains.

The West Locust Street and Kaufmann Avenue storm sewer improvements are in addition to the already scheduled Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project storm sewer improvements.

The City intends to implement the plans over the next several years. Additional information will be available as City staff develop plans for community outreach related to the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program to identify eligible properties. §

## Looking for a Summer Job Working with Kids? Join AmeriCorps!

AmeriCorps is a national service program that serves to meet a community's critical need. AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance, education award, meaningful work experience and a fun summer job! Positions available for 2016 Summer include: crew leader for the Multicultural Family Center's Future Talk Program; playground leader for Leisure Service's Playground Explorations; and teacher assistant for St. Mark Youth Enrichment's Heroes Summer Academy. Applications are available online at [www.cityofdubuque.org/ameriCorps](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/ameriCorps). §



### Reminder for Rental Property Owners

The City of Dubuque is sponsoring an educational program, Successful Rental Property Management, on all aspects of managing rental property for property owners and managers. According to the City Code of Ordinances, as recommended by the Safe Community Task Force, all Dubuque rental property owners or their property managers **must** attend this program. *Licensed real estate professionals or those who have already completed this program are exempt.*

One attendee said, "The class was right on task for rental property owners. My tenant retention has gone up by years, saving me money and headaches."

The next session is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at NICC Town Clock Center, 680 Main St. Register online at [www.nicc.edu/solutions](http://www.nicc.edu/solutions) and enter "Successful Rental Property Management" 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/srpm](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/srpm). §

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO GARDEN?

**DBQCOMMUNITYGARDENS.COM**

Explore community gardens around Dubuque and claim a plot near you! Many community gardens offer free space, access to basic gardening tools, and support for new growers. Visit [www.dbqcommunitygardens.com](http://www.dbqcommunitygardens.com) for more information.

## Nachtman Appointed Dubuque Finance Director

Dubuque City Manager Mike Van Milligen has named Assistant Finance Director Jean Nachtman the City's next finance director. Nachtman replaced Ken TeKippe, who led the City's award-winning finance department for more than 15 years.

As finance director, Nachtman directs the activities of the finance department, represent the City on financial issues, and execute administrative and financial policies of the City. She also manages the City's central accounting systems and supervise the preparation of statements and reports on financial affairs as needed.

Nachtman has served as the City's assistant finance director since October 2003. She holds an MBA from the University of Dubuque and a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration, also from the University of Dubuque. She is a certified public accountant, certified public financial officer, and advanced certified public funds investment manager. §



## SNOWSHOEING

Fun for all ages!

Friday, March 4 - 10:30 a.m. - Noon  
Allison-Henderson Park Ice Rink - 1500 Loras Blvd.

Snowshoes provided on a first come, first served basis.

## 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](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/CDBG) or contact Erica Haugen, community development specialist, at 563-589-4212 for more information. §

Connections between residents and government are critical!

Apply today for the Spring 2016 session

Next session runs April 7 - May 12  
Deadline to apply is Friday, April 1

[www.cityofdubuque.org/citylife](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/citylife) 563.589.4182

## Would You Like a \$50 Hy-Vee Gift Card?

We are looking for people who travel in Dubuque daily to participate in the Smarter Travel Study. If you have an Android or iPhone cell phone, an interest in improving transit and the travel patterns in Dubuque, and would like to be compensated for your time with a \$50 Hy-Vee gift card, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/smartertravel](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/smartertravel) to take a brief survey to begin the process. §





# A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

As of the current fiscal year (2016), the City has \$297 million of debt. The proposed debt-reduction plan calls for the debt to be reduced to \$164 million within 10 years (by fiscal year 2026). That represents an almost 45% reduction in debt and would put Dubuque at just 32% of its statutory debt limit.

## Debt Management & City Budget

The City of Dubuque uses debt strategically for major projects with long-term community benefits. 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. 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.

The City increased its use of debt to accomplish the infrastructure projects that needed to be done during an extremely low interest rate environment. This was a strategic decision by the City Council realizing that infrastructure investment gets more expensive over time for these reasons: a) the older a piece of infrastructure gets and the more it is allowed to deteriorate increases costs; b) the longer the wait to invest in infrastructure the costs are increased

by inflation; and c) if the investment in infrastructure is not made in this low interest rate environment, this investment will eventually need to be made when interest rates are higher, thereby increasing costs.

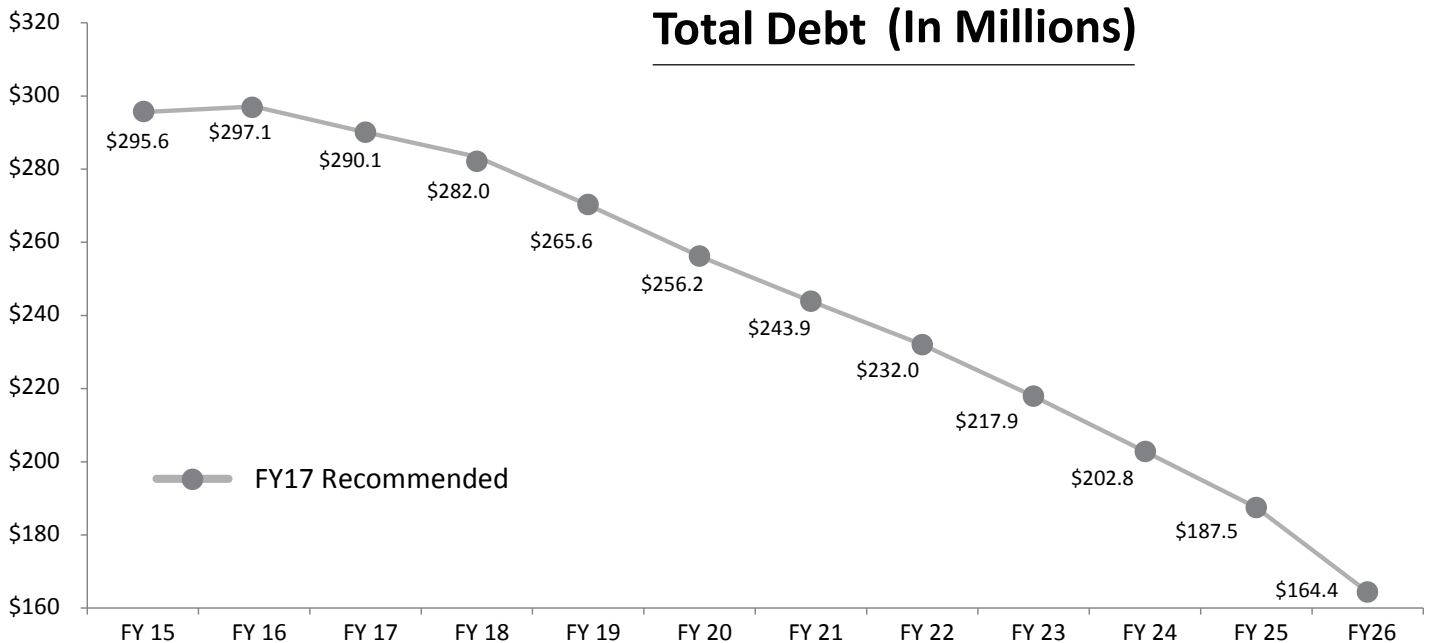
In August 2015, the City Council completed their annual goal-setting sessions and reaffirmed the City's vision statement, mission statement, and goals. They also established a policy agenda with priorities and identified "debt-reduction policy" as a high priority. As directed, the Fiscal Year 2017 budget recommendation that I presented to the City Council at their Feb. 1, 2016, meeting included plans to significantly lower the City's debt over the next 10 years. The amount of outstanding debt will begin to decrease and, going forward, the City will issue less debt each year than is retired and many projects will become "pay-as-you-go." The debt that is issued will be mainly for stormwater and sanitary sewer improvement projects.

These debt-reduction efforts impact the City's capital improvement program (CIP) budget by eliminating or delaying projects to reduce future debt issuances, but do not significantly impact the operating budget. As part of last year's budget process, challenges with the operating budget were addressed through the elimination of staff positions, a targeted hiring freeze, no pay raise for non-bargaining unit (non-union) employees, a reduction in funds for purchase of service agreements, a targeted freeze on training and travel budgets for city staff, and increases in rates and fees.

This year's budget recommendation included the continuation of those cost-saving measures as well as some increases in taxes and fees.

The City Council will consider the recommended budget over the course of seven public meetings in February and early March. For more information on the budget, please visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/budget](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/budget) or call 563-589-4110. §

## Total Debt (In Millions)



# Public Works Reminders

Seasonal yard debris and food scrap collection for current subscribers starts Monday, April 4. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 563-589-4250 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste).



## New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- Sarah Bennett** - Housing & Community Dev.
- Joseph Blodgett** - Housing & Community Dev.
- Luis Del Toro** - City Council
- Taj Fahel Suleyman** - Human Rights
- Jonathan Farfan** - Transit
- Kathleen Henson** - Library
- Schaun Juchter** - Police
- Gabriel Kalkbrenner** - Police
- Jacob Rios** - City Council
- Thomas Warner** - Police
- Christopher Weaver** - Recreation

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

- Daniel Sabers** - Police
- Lynn Schlueter** - Engineering
- Tim Schmit** - Parking
- Ken Tekippe** - Finance

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 [twitter.com/CityofDubuque](https://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  
[ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org](mailto: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](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).

# CALENDAR

## March

- 1 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, 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 Snowshoeing, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Allison-Henderson Park ice rink, 1500 Loras Blvd. Snowshoes provided on a first come, first served basis.
- 7 City Council Meeting, 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
- 10 Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Room 223, Historic Federal Building
- 10 Successful Rental Property Management Program training, NICC Town Clock Center. Register at [www.nicc.edu/solutions](http://www.nicc.edu/solutions) or call 563-557-8271, ext. 380.
- 12 Leisure Services Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Mystique Community Ice Center, 10:30 a.m.
- 14 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 14 Public Hearing to Adopt FY17 Budget, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 15 Housing Code Appeals Board, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Long-Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 17 Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Commission, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building
- 17 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 21 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 24 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 24 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 28 Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center

## April

- 4 Weekly yard waste and food scrap collection resumes. Call 589-4250 or visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/yardwaste) for more information.
- 4 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 5 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 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, 3:30 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
- 18 City Council Meeting, 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 Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 20 Long-Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 21 Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Commission, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building
- 21 Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 25 Five Flags Civic Center Commission, 3:30 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center
- 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
- 27 Investment Oversight Advisory Committee Meeting, 3 p.m., Conf. Room A, City Hall
- 28 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 28 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 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.