Dubuque Airport Terminal Grand Opening

The City of Dubuque is pleased to announce the grand opening for the Dubuque Regional Airport new airline passenger terminal facility! The public is invited to attend the grand opening ceremony on Thursday, June 9 beginning at 4 p.m. The new facility is located at 10965 Aviation Drive, about 1/2 mile south of the current terminal entrance on Highway 61.

Ground was broken for the new facility on October 17, 2012 and construction was scheduled to be completed in December 2016.

The completion of the terminal project follows several years of significant commercial airline growth by American Airlines in Dubuque. Nationally, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) states the average growth rate is two percent. Dubuque grew by seven percent in 2015, 6.8 percent in 2014, and 3.8 percent in 2013 – far exceeding the national average. The new facility will allow the community to continue to grow well into the future and was designed with the capability to expand when needed.

This modern 35,000 square-foot terminal was designed by Straka Johnson Architects of Dubuque and constructed under the oversight of Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly, Inc. by the following local firms: Tricon Construction Group, Flynn Company, McClain Excavation, Horsfield Construction, and many local subcontractors.

Most of the funding has been made available through FAA airport grants, airport and City of Dubuque revenues, and state grants. The new terminal facility includes many sustainable features like geo-thermal heating and cooling, locally produced limestone, reused concrete, low- or no-flow plumbing fixtures, and permeable pavement in the vehicle parking lot.

Dubuque residents and stakeholders are invited to “COME TO THE TABLE” and share what they would like considered for the upcoming year’s City Council goals.

Please consider participating at one of these locations:

- Thurs., April 14, 6:30-8 p.m. Kennedy Mall Community Booth, 555 JFK Rd.
- Mon., April 18, 8-11 a.m. Kennedy Mall Community Booth, 555 JFK Rd.
- Sat., April 30, 9-11 a.m. Hy-Vee Community Room, 3500 Dodge St.
- Wed., May 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Comiskey Park Building, 255 E. 24th St.

These sessions will be facilitated by City staff. Input can also be provided online by completing a survey available at www.cityofdubuque.org/cometothetable.
Dubuque’s Firefighting Rating Upgraded

The national Insurance Services Office (ISO) has upgraded the City of Dubuque’s fire suppression capabilities rating based on the city’s fire department, emergency communications, water supply, and community risk reduction. As a result, Dubuque received the second-highest rating possible, upgraded from Class 3 to Class 2, placing it among the top 3 percent in the nation.

Residents and business owners in communities whose fire suppression rating improves may get lower insurance prices. ISO says most U.S. insurers use the information as part of their decision-making when deciding what business to write, coverages to offer, and prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance. Each insurance company independently determines the premiums it charges its policyholders. For more information on the rating system, visit www.isomitigation.com.

Last Chance to See the 2015-16 Art on the River Exhibit

Vote for your favorite Art on the River sculpture for the People’s Choice Award before the close of the 2015 exhibit in early June. Visit the exhibit at the Port of Dubuque’s Mississippi Riverwalk or view the selections online at www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver. Don’t forget to check in on Facebook @Art on the River - Dubuque and share your pictures with us using #ArtOnTheRiverDBQ. Did you know that all the sculptures are also available for purchase? Outdoor sculptures are a tremendous way to incorporate art on your property. Sculpture sales benefit the artists as well as support the Art on the River program. New works will be selected and revealed at the opening reception scheduled for Wed., June 22, at 5 p.m. at the Grand River Center, where guests can meet the artists and find new pieces of art to love. Set a reminder – this fun event is free and open to the public! For additional information, call 563-589-4393, visit www.facebook.com/ArtsandCultureDBQ, or email dalleyne@cityofdubuque.org.

New Department Managers Named

Todd Carr has been named the Building Services Manager following the retirement of Rich Russell, who served for more than 15 years. Carr served as rehabilitation inspector/construction specialist for the City’s Housing and Community Development Department since January 2012. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/buildingservices.

John Klostermann has been appointed the next Public Works Director, effective May 2, replacing Don Vogt who will retire after more than 40 years with the City of Dubuque. Klostermann joined the City in 1975 and has held various positions within the Public Works Department. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/publicworks.

Garage Sale Guidelines

For the benefit of all of Dubuque’s residents, the City allows up to three garage sales at any residential dwelling per calendar year in all residential zoning districts. Garage sales that are held from one to three consecutive days are considered one garage sale.

As a reminder, 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. For more information, please contact the Planning Services Department at (563) 589-4210 or email planning@cityofdubuque.org.

Leisure Services Department News

NEW Summer Swim Passes

In an effort to better serve patrons visiting our pools, swim passes for 2016 will now be an ID card. The residency process and paperwork for the pass remain the same; however, instead of receiving one or several tags, each pass holder will receive a photo ID card which will be scanned upon entry at the pool.

Passes are on sale now and can be purchased at the Leisure Services office at 2200 Bunker Hill Rd. Each pass holder is required to come to the office to have a photo taken for their ID. Low-income passes are available; must present valid documents to obtain discount. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/pools or call 563-589-4263.

City park amenities and pavilions open Saturday, May 7, weather permitting.

Flora and Sutton pools open Saturday, May 28, weather permitting.

Join Us for These Upcoming Celebrations!

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS!

Marshallese Constitutional Day Celebration
Sat., May 28, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Flora Park

Juneteenth Celebration
Sat., June 18, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Comiskey Park

Details at www.mfcdbq.org
Foundations of the City Budget
In August 2015, Mayor Roy D. Buol and the City Council held their annual goal-setting process. This is conducted over three evenings with professional facilitation. The City Council reaffirmed the city’s vision and mission statement and established five-year goals and priorities that would put the City on the road to achieving these goals. These goals and priorities provide the city manager with the foundation on which to build the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget recommendation.

Following a series of six public meetings in February, the City’s operating and capital improvement program (CIP) budgets for FY2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) were adopted by the Mayor and City Council on March 14.

Property Taxes
The budget includes an increase of 1.29% in the property tax rate to $11.16773 per thousand dollars of assessed value.
• This property tax rate translates into a 1.08% increase, or $8.05 more for the average residential property owner.
• The adopted rate represents a 1.78% increase, or $56 more for the average commercial property.
• The adopted rate provides a decrease of 7.28%, or $383 less for the average industrial property.

Dubuque’s adopted rate of $11.17 is the second-lowest property tax rate of Iowa’s 11 cities with populations over 50,000. The highest rate (Council Bluffs, $17.75) is 59% higher than Dubuque and the average ($15.31) is 37% higher.

Debt Reduction
Debt reduction was adopted as a priority by the Mayor and City Council at their annual goal-setting process in August 2015. The adopted FY2017 budget included actions to reduce the City’s debt from its current level of $297 million to $164 million over the next 10 years. This represents a reduction of almost 45% ($132 million) and will put the City at just 59% higher than Dubuque and the average ($15.31) is 37% higher.

General Fund Reserves
The City maintains a general fund reserve, or working balance, to allow for unforeseen expenses that may occur. In addition to reducing debt, the adopted budget plans call for annual increases to the City’s general fund cash reserve. The reserve is projected to increase by $2.6 million (almost 18%) over the next six years to reach nearly $11 million in FY2021.

Rates and Fees
The adopted budget includes a 3% increase to the water rate, 3% sanitary sewer rate increase, 6.3% increase to the monthly curbside collection fee, and a 6.7% increase to the stormwater fee. These adjustments will increase the annual costs for these city services by about $38 for the average Dubuque homeowner.

The City’s $130 million operating budget and $55.5 million capital improvements budget will enable the City to pursue the City Council’s mission to deliver excellent municipal services that support urban living and a sustainable city plan for the community’s future and facilitate access to critical human services which result in financially sound city government and citizens getting services and value for their tax dollar.

The adopted FY2017 budget includes funding to continue progress on City Council priorities including, but not limited to: implementation of the East/West Corridor Study, consideration of a Community Resiliency Commission, the City’s street maintenance program, the Comprehensive Plan update and community engagement process, and support for safe neighborhoods, including additional surveillance cameras and job creation.

Nine City Parks Designated as Pesticide-Free
As part of the City of Dubuque’s new Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, nine City parks have been designated as Pesticide-Free Parks where no chemicals will be used to manage the landscapes. They include Allison-Henderson, Cleveland, Falk, Riley, Pinard, Southern, Teddy Bear, Welu, and Maus parks. Signs posted will indicate these are the pesticide-free parks.

The City has also designated a pilot Pesticide Free Zone program in Usha Park. Chemicals will only be used in a specified zone in the park. To sign up to be notified via text message and/or email when chemical treatments will occur in City parks and City property, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme and choose “Pesticide Application Notification.” More information on the City’s IPM strategy, including maps, is available at www.cityofdubuque.org/ipm or by calling 563-589-4263.

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New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

Kendra Alspach - Library
Mark Bowers - Library
Jeffrey Davis, Jr. - Public Works
Dawn DeMaio - Housing & Comm. Development
Thea Dement - Library
Tonya England - Housing & Comm. Development
Aretia Alanda Gregory - Library
Sean Kelley - Transit
Susan Mariman - Police
Gary Meyer - Transit
Farris Muhammad - Multicultural Family Center
Eugene Nauman - Transit
Anita Odobasic Gonyier - Engineering
Michael Pfohl - Transit
Darren Steel - Public Works
Patrick Till - Public Works
Brian Wulfekuhle - Public Works

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

Jonathan Brown - Water & Resource Recovery
Vincent Connor - Public Works
Terry Naderman - Public Works
Gerald Stoffel - Building Services
Donald Vogt - Public Works

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

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.