Central Avenue Corridor Initiative Launched

The City of Dubuque has launched a new initiative to engage residents and stakeholders in planning for the revitalization of Dubuque’s Central Avenue Corridor from 14th Street to 22nd Street.

The corridor connects the city’s central downtown and Historic Millwork District to the North End and features a wide variety of historic buildings offering commercial and retail opportunities on the ground floor and residential spaces on upper floors. The goal of this initiative is the economic revitalization of the corridor through community engagement, educational outreach, and community-informed storefront and streetscape design.

“The scheduled completion of the Southwest Arterial in 2019 and subsequent removal of the majority of truck traffic from the corridor, combined with the improved resilience of the neighborhood thanks to the Bee Branch Creek Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, will create a prime environment for a renaissance,” said Economic Development Director Maurice Jones. He said the purpose of this initiative is to engage stakeholders in the process to prepare for and guide this renaissance. Stakeholders include business owners, employees, patrons, residents, landlords, social service agencies, community leaders, the City of Dubuque, and partner agencies.

To assist with the initiative, the City of Dubuque has entered into a collaborative relationship with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO). Specifically, ISUEO will assist with outreach and community engagement efforts, asset mapping of buildings and businesses in the corridor, and identification of additional partnership opportunities.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/cac or contact the Economic Development Department at 563-589-4393 or econdev@cityofdubuque.org.

City Offers Food Scrap ‘Recycling’ Options

Weekly curbside collection of yard waste and food scraps on customers’ regular collection days has resumed for the 2017 season. The City reminds its customers that multiple options are available to “recycle” food scraps rather than dispose of them with trash.

The City’s curbside food scrap collection program accepts all food scraps (including meat and bones); coffee filters and tea bags; all food-soiled paper cups and paper plates; and paper towels, placemats, napkins, and bags. If you are unsure about what can or cannot be placed with food scraps/yard waste, use the Waste Wizard at www.cityofdubuque.org/rethinkwaste.

The City offers residential and commercial customers a subscription-based service with City-provided tipper carts. Monthly costs for residential and K-12 school customers are: $1 for 13-gallon container, $8 for 48-gallon container, and $11 for 65-gallon container. Commercial subscriptions are also available.

Food scraps collected by the City are transported to the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency’s landfill on U.S. Highway 20, where they are processed with yard waste and converted to compost.

For additional information on this service, contact the Public Works Department at 563-589-4250.
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center Reopens

Household hazardous wastes, such as oil-based paint, motor oil, lawn chemicals, and other chemicals, should not be disposed of in trash cans, floor drains, or storm sewers. Please safely dispose of these items at the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) Regional Collection Center located just off U.S. 20 west of Dubuque. This service is FREE to Dubuque and Delaware County households. Materials can be dropped off anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, through October 2017. No appointments are needed for residential customers. For more information, visit www.dmaswa.org or call 563-557-8220.

Parking Division Office Moves to Intermodal Transportation Center

The City's parking division's administrative and parking enforcement staff and offices have moved from the Locust Street Parking Ramp to the Intermodal Transportation Center at 950 Elm St. in the Millwork District. Parking tickets can continue to be paid at City Hall, online at www.cityofdubuque.org/parkingtickets, and can also be paid at the Intermodal Center. Monthly ramp and surface lot parking requests, as well as residential and disabled parking requests, can be made in person at the Intermodal Center, or forms for these processes are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/parking.

The move allows parking division administrative and parking enforcement staff to be co-located with The Jule public transit administrative staff and is expected to create operational efficiencies and improved customer service. The parking division phone number, 563-589-4266, has not changed.

Recognize Local Public Service

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is May 7-13, 2017. Celebrated the first week of May since 1985, PSRW was created to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees. Please help the City of Dubuque recognize the contributions of City staff by sharing your thoughts on why you appreciate City employees or how they positively impact our community. General comments are welcome, but feel free to share specific examples of City of Dubuque employees whose work is making Dubuque a better place. Please share your thoughts by May 3 by submitting the form at www.cityofdubuque.org/PSRW, calling 563-589-4151, or mailing a note to City of Dubuque Public Information Office, 50 W. 13th St., Dubuque, IA, 52001. Thank you.

Civil Service Commission Vacancy

The City of Dubuque Civil Service Commission has an opening for a qualified commissioner. Pursuant to Chapter 400 of the Iowa Code, the civil service commission is responsible for establishing guidelines for entrance and promotional examinations as well as scheduling and conducting the examinations for the City’s nearly 350 civil service positions. The commission may occasionally conduct appeal hearings.

Commissioners are appointed by the mayor, serve four-year terms, and must be residents of the city preceding their appointment. The commission meets on-call approximately once per month and conducts examinations as necessary.

Applications can be completed online at www.cityofdubuque.org/boards. Contact the City Clerk’s Office at 563-589-4100 for more information.

Summer Reading Programs Fun for All Ages

Carnegie-Stout Public Library offers summer reading programs for all ages from June 5 - August 11. Registration for both programs begins on Monday, June 5, at the library, or online at www.dubuque.lib.ia.us. Readers will receive the first reading log when signing up and can win prizes during the programs as well as become eligible for a grand prize.

May is Building Safety Month

May is designated Building Safety Month to help communities understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures during renovations, repairs, or new construction. Please remember to contact the City of Dubuque Building Services Department and apply for permits prior to starting your projects to allow the department to review, support, and answer any questions to keep your projects and our community safe. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/buildingservices or call 563-589-4150.

Have you Imagined Dubuque? Be a part of shaping Dubuque’s future!

Imagine Dubuque, the campaign for the new City of Dubuque Comprehensive Plan, asks residents to share their ideas to make Dubuque a more viable, livable, and equitable community. Share what you love about Dubuque, what could be improved, or what you would like to see. Visit the project website at www.imaginedubuque.com or download the free project app to learn more about the project, upcoming events, and to share your idea today. Your ideas matter!
June is NATIONAL HEALTHY HOMES Month

Did you know?

- Your indoor home environment is closely linked to your health.
- A working smoke alarm can cut in half the chance of someone dying in a fire.
- Radon is the second main cause of lung cancer in the US.

Learn more about these and other healthy home facts at www.cityofdubuque.org/healthyhomes

The Mayor and City Council received the City Manager’s budget recommendation on February 6. They then held six public meetings and a final public hearing where they received public comments and then decided to approve a budget which had been amended from the original recommendation.

The March 7 public hearing was the end of the annual budget process that began with community engagement activities in spring 2016 and concluded with a series of six public meetings in February 2017 to accept public input and review City department/division budget details.

The City’s total budget for FY2018 is $169.8 million, an 8.28 percent reduction from FY2017. The operating budget ($129.4 million) represents a 27.48 percent reduction from FY2017 while the capital budget ($40.3 million) is a 0.06 percent reduction from FY2017. The operating budget ($129.4 million, an 8.28 percent reduction from FY2017) and the capital budget ($40.3 million, a 0.06 percent reduction from FY2017) are both below the original City Manager’s recommendation.

Debt Reduction

The adopted budget includes new measures to expedite the City’s debt-reduction plan. Previously, the City was scheduled to continue reducing debt and be at 79 percent of its statutory debt limit in FY2018 and continue that trend and reach 66 percent in FY2025. Instead, under the new budget, the City will be at 64 percent of its statutory debt limit in FY2018 and be down to just 24 percent in FY2027.

Cash Reserve Fund Increases

The City maintains a general fund reserve, or working balance, to allow for unforeseen expenses that may occur. Under the new budget, this reserve will increase by $5.925 million ($4.24 percent) over the next seven years. It will grow from almost $9.9 million in the current fiscal year to nearly $14.2 million in FY2022.

City Portion of Property Taxes

The adopted property tax rate for the City portion of property taxes is $10.89 per thousand dollars assessed value, a 2.47 percent reduction from FY2017. In terms of the impact on property owners in each of the four property classes, the $10.89 rate represents no change for residential properties, a 2.47 percent reduction for commercial properties (or $83.02 less for the average commercial property), 2.47 percent reduction for industrial properties (or $124.43 less for the average industrial property), and a 6.71 percent reduction for multi-residential properties (or $144.91 less for the average multi-residential property).

When compared to the FY2017 rates of Iowa’s 11 largest cities, Dubuque’s FY2018 property tax rate of $10.89 per thousand dollars assessed value is the second lowest. The average of those 11 cities ($15.31) is 41 percent higher than Dubuque and the highest (Council Bluffs, $17.75) is 63 percent higher.

Last Chance to See the 2016-17 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 2016 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. New works will be selected and revealed at the opening reception scheduled for Thurs., June 29, at 5 p.m. at the Grand River Center. A kids’ tour and reception will be held from 3:30 - 4:30. Set a reminder – this fun event is free and open to the public. Guests can meet the artists and find new pieces of art to love. For additional information, call 563-589-4393 or email dalleyne@cityofdubuque.org.

Rates & Fees

The FY2018 budget includes the following rate and fee increases, which will be effective July 1, 2017:

- sewer rates will increase by $1.14 per month for an average residential customer;
- water rates will increase by $0.83 per month for an average residential customer;
- solid waste collection rates will increase by $0.34 per month for an average residential customer; and
- stormwater rates will increase $0.46 per month per standard family unit (SFU) equivalent.

Expansion of Transit Evening Service Hours

The adopted budget also includes funding for The Jule to expand its hours of fixed-route and Minibus service to 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every weekday. Service hours on Fridays and Saturdays are extended to 9 p.m. in summer and until 2:40 a.m. during the school year. This additional service is partially funded through Saturday service efficiencies.

Staffing Level

The new budget also includes some staffing changes with the net result of the City’s staffing level being reduced by 2.87 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in FY2018 to a total of 703.92 FTE. Additionally, 13.6 FTE positions remain frozen (unfilled vacancies).

Complete details on the budget are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2018budget.
New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque congratulates these recent retirees:

- Tim Horsfield - Parking
- Steven Heinz - Transit
- Michael Hancock - Police
- Peter Fleming - Police
- Evan Armour - Parking
- Denny Arensdorf - Parking

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- Robert W. Blok - Advisory Commission
- David Young - Housing
- Gil Spence - Code Board
- Jay Schiesl - Human Rights Commission
- Miquel Jackson - Community Development
- Gail Chavenelle - Resilient Community
- Sara Burley - Housing Board of Appeals
- Benjamin Darr - Advisory Commission
- Sara Booth - Housing
- Dick Landis - Community Development
- Annalee Ward - Housing
- Stephanie Grutz - Advisory Commission
- Sara Burley - Housing Board of Appeals
- Janet Walker - Housing
- Dean Boles - Advisory Commission
- Ben Darr - Advisory Commission
- Sara Booth - Housing
- Dick Landis - Community Development
- Neal Patten - Resilient Community
- Robert Felderman - Resilient Community
- Carrie Lohmann - Resilient Community
- Laura Roussell - Resilient Community
- Leah Specht - Resilient Community
- Stephanie Grutz - Resilient Community
- Robert Felderman - Resilient Community
- Carrie Lohmann - Resilient Community
- Laura Roussell - Resilient Community
- Leah Specht - Resilient Community

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new and reappointed board or commission members:

- Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority:
  - Investment Oversight Advisory Commission - Franz Becker
  - Sister City Relationship - Brett Shaw

- Resilient Community Advisory Commission:
  - Housing Commission - Sara Burley
  - Community Development Advisory Commission - Tom Giese

- Human Rights Commission:
  - Mechanical and Plumbing Code Board - Bethany Golombeski

- Housing Board of Appeals:
  - Zoning Board of Adjustments - Bethany Golombeski

- Community Development Advisory Commission:
  - Robert W. Blok

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
Phone: (563) 389-4110 Email: 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

May

1. City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
2. Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
3. Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
4. City parks open for 2017 season
5. Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
6. Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Location TBD
7. Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Conf. Rm., 950 Elm St.
8. City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
9. Housing Board of Appeals, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
10. Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board, 11:30 a.m., Historic Federal Building
11. Community Development Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
12. Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Bldg.
13. Historic Preservation Commission, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
14. National Kids to Parks Day - Free admission to Eagle Point Park
15. Civic Center Commission Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Five Flags Civic Center
16. Airport Commission 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
17. City Council Work Session walking tour of Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, 5:30 p.m., parking area of Garfield Ave/Pine St.
18. Housing Commission, 4 p.m. Suite 312, Historic Federal Bldg.
19. Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, Carnegie-Stout Public Library
20. Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
21. Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building
22. Tentative opening date for Sutton and Flora pools
23. City offices closed for Memorial Day (Trash and recycling collection on Sat., May 27)

June

1. Resilient Community Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room 1, City Hall Annex
2. City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Bldg.
3. Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
4. Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
5. Transit Advisory Board, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Conf. Rm., 950 Elm St.
6. Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
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