

CITYnews

THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

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MAY/JUNE 2018

Improvements Ahead: Summer Construction Season Highlights

The 2018 construction season is already under way and the City will soon begin several large projects. These infrastructure improvement projects may involve some short-term inconveniences for residents and businesses, but they are significant community investments that will provide long-term benefits. Access to all businesses in these construction areas will be maintained throughout the projects and City staff and project contractors will work with impacted residents to maintain safe access to their properties.

Bee Branch Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements

While the creek restoration phase of the Bee Branch Creek Watershed Flood Mitigation Project was completed last year, significant work remains on “upstream” phases of the project. Next up are two major projects that are designed to alleviate the flash flooding that occurs on 22nd Street/Kaufmann Avenue and 17th Street/West Locust Street by installing larger storm sewers under the streets (box culverts) and additional high-capacity storm drains. Both projects will require total street and sidewalk reconstruction and the relocation of underground utilities. Details on both projects are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch.

- **22nd Street/Kaufmann Avenue** – The project will be completed in two phases. The first, from Elm St. west to Jackson St., will begin in late May and be completed in July. The second phase, from Jackson St. to White St., will be completed by mid-November.
- **17th Street/West Locust Street** – The first phase of this project is completed. The second phase, from Elm St. to Heeb St., is scheduled to begin in early June and is expected to be completed in mid-November.

Southwest Arterial (US 52)

In addition to continued grading and bridge construction throughout the project corridor, 2018 will include major work on US 20/Dodge Street from the Old Highway intersection west to Menards. The work will include adding new lanes to US 20 and creating a new intersection connecting US 20 with both Old Highway Road and the new frontage road (Westside Drive) to Menards and other businesses south of US 20 in that area. Four lanes of traffic (two eastbound and two westbound) will be maintained on US 20 throughout the project and much of the work will be completed at night to minimize traffic impacts. The schedule for this project is not yet finalized but it is expected to begin in June. Additional information will be shared when available. Southwest Arterial project details are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/southwestarterial.

N. Grandview Avenue/University Avenue Roundabout

The project to convert this four-way stop intersection to a roundabout will begin in early June, after school ends for the summer, and will be completed by late August, before the school year resumes. Northbound and southbound traffic on N. Grandview Ave. will be maintained throughout the project. University Ave. will be closed at that location during the project. Detours will be in place.

Resurfacing Portions of 11th & White Streets

The rehabilitation of White St. between 9th and 11th streets and 11th St. between White and Elm streets will start this summer and be completed by November. The resurfacing project will also include underground utility and sidewalk improvements.

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Washington Street Sewer Project

Major underground utility work and street reconstruction of Washington St. between 7th and 9th streets will begin this summer and be completed by late September. Detours will be in place to maintain traffic at all times.

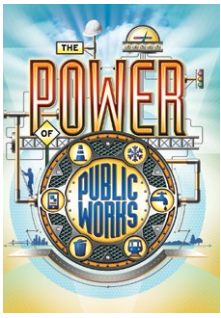
John F. Kennedy Road Turning Lane

A right-turn lane will be added to southbound John F. Kennedy Rd. at its intersection with the Northwest Arterial (US 32). This is expected to be a four-week project. A schedule has not yet been finalized but it will be completed by October 1st. Access to the Northwest Arterial Trail will be maintained during the project and traffic impacts are expected to be minimal. §

Street Detours & Construction Alerts

For the most current information on City of Dubuque street detours and construction alerts, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/detours or subscribe to email and/or text alerts through the “Street Detours & Construction Alerts” Notify Me at www.cityofdubuque.org/ notifyme.



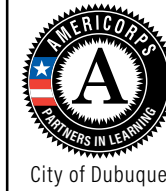


National Public Works Week Event

National Public Works Week, sponsored annually by the American Public Works Association (APWA) since 1960, is May 20-26 this year. The City of Dubuque invites the public to attend Dubuque's Farmers' Market on Saturday, May 26, to learn more about the public works profession through interaction with staff, heavy equipment displays ("Touch a Truck"), and a scavenger hunt for children. Across North America, more than 30,000 APWA members use this annual week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works in their local communities to improve everyday quality of life. §

Help Make Our Community Plan a Reality!

Dubuque's new comprehensive plan, "Imagine Dubuque 2037: A Call to Action," was adopted following a year of community engagement that gathered over 12,500 ideas from more than 6,000 residents and stakeholders. The plan serves as a policy guide for the community's physical, social, and economic development. Just as the plan was built on community participation, partnerships and collaboration with residents and organizations will be the key to implementing the plan recommendations. The goal is to create a more viable, livable, and equitable community. Help make our community plan a reality! For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/ImagineDubuque. §



*Make a difference
in a child's life,
for the better,
forever!*

AmeriCorps Partners in Learning
is hiring

Academic Reading Tutors for the 2018-19 school year!

- Work 1-on-1 with K-3rd grade students who are struggling readers.
- Serve with us part-time at 12-15 hours per week or full-time at 30-35 hours per week.
- Living stipends and education awards are available to all members.

Learn more and apply:
www.CityofDubuque.org/AmeriCorps

Your Property is Your Investment...Protect it!

Five Reasons Building Permits are Important

For many, spring is the start of building season. As residents plan home and property improvements, it's important that building permits are part of your project. There are many reasons why building permits are important.

Permits and inspections:

Enhance Safety – Your permit allows city code officials to identify and address substandard work. These efforts result in enhanced health, safety, and welfare for building occupants and our community. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet national safety standards.

Save Money – Property insurers might deny claims for damages caused by work done without permits and inspections. The City's plan review process also helps reduce costly change orders by identifying design issues before work begins.

Protect Property Values – Your property is likely one of your biggest investments. Failure to obtain permits and inspections could jeopardize the value of your investment.

Help Sell Your Property – When property is sold, owners are required to disclose what improvements or repairs have been made. Unpermitted work is a liability and many financial institutions will not provide financing if work has not been permitted and inspected. Property insurers may also deny coverage.

Are Required by City Code – City ordinances require permits for work. Failure to get permits can result in a municipal infraction and work initiated without a permit will result in increased permit fees later. In some instances, work completed without a permit may have to be removed to be inspected.

Make sure you or your contractor has applied for and been issued a permit prior to any work starting. If you are unsure if your project requires a permit, please contact the Building Services Department at 563-589-4150 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/buildingservices. §



Summer Activities Brochures Available!

Summer Leisure Services Brochures are available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/recreation and for pick-up at the Leisure Services office (2200 Bunker Hill Rd.), City Hall (50 W. 13th St.), Multicultural Family Center (1157 Central Ave.) and Carnegie-Stout Public Library (360 W. 11th St.). Online registration for programs and activities began April 9 and walk-in/regular registration at the Leisure Services office begins April 16. §

Food Scrap 'Recycling' Options Offered

Weekly curbside collection of yard waste and food scraps on customers' regular collection days has resumed for the 2018 season. Remember that multiple options are available to "recycle" food scraps rather than dispose of them with trash. In addition to mixing them with yard waste, residential and commercial customers can choose a subscription-based service with City-provided tipper carts. For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at 563-589-4250 or publicworks@cityofdubuque.org. 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. §



A MESSAGE from the CITY MANAGER

Michael C. Van Milligen

Mayor Roy D. Buol and the City Council held six public meetings and then a final public hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 28, on the operating and capital budgets for the City's 2019 fiscal year, which runs July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. Following public input and discussion, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt.

The adopted property tax rate for the City portion of property taxes is \$10.59 per thousand dollars assessed value, a 2.79 percent **reduction** from FY2018. In terms of the impact on property owners in each of the four property classes, the \$10.59 rate represents a 1.92 percent increase in property tax costs for residential properties due to an average increase of 7 percent in assessed value due to revaluations in 2017. The reduced property tax rate results in a 3.92 percent reduction for commercial properties (or \$128.66 less for the average commercial property), 3.54

percent reduction for industrial properties (or \$174.32 less for the average industrial property), and a 7.21 percent reduction for multi-residential properties (or \$145.27 less for the average multi-residential property).

When compared to the FY2019 rates of Iowa's 11 largest cities, Dubuque's FY2019 property tax rate of \$10.59 is the second lowest. The average of those 11 cities (\$15.35) is 45 percent higher than Dubuque and the highest (Council Bluffs, \$18.26) is 72 percent higher.

The City's total budget for FY2019 is \$174,801,105, a 3 percent increase from FY2018. The operating budget (\$131,216,119) is a 1.37 percent increase from FY2018 and the capital budget (\$43,584,986) represents an 8.23 percent increase from FY2018.

The adopted budget includes plans to increase the General Fund working balance or operating reserve by \$1,050,000 in FY2019. In subsequent years, the City will add to the operating reserve until 20 percent is maintained consistently. In Fiscal Year 2017, the City had projected reaching this consistent and sustainable 20 percent reserve level in Fiscal Year 2022. Now it is projected this 20 percent level will be reached in Fiscal Year 2020, two years ahead of schedule.

The FY2019 budget includes the following fee adjustments for City services, effective July 1, 2018: a 3 percent increase to the sanitary sewer fee, a 1.7 percent increase to the solid waste collection fee, a 6.75 percent increase to the stormwater fee, and a 3 percent increase to the water fee. Utility customers will see a total average monthly increase of \$2.78 in City services.

The new budget also includes some staffing changes with the net result of the City's staffing level being reduced by 5.48 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in FY2019 to a total of 698.68 FTE.

Complete details on the budget are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2019budget. §

The adopted budget includes continued implementation of the debt-reduction plan adopted by the Mayor and City Council in August 2015. The City will be at 56 percent of its statutory debt limit in FY2019, 37 percent in FY2023, and will be down to just 20 percent in FY2028.

	% Change	\$ Change
Property Tax Rate	-2.79%	-\$0.30
Avg. Residential Payment	+1.92%	+\$14.47
Avg. Commercial Payment	-3.92%	-\$128.66
Avg. Industrial Payment	-3.54%	-\$174.32
Avg. Multi-Residential Payment	-7.21%	-\$145.27

Emerald Ash Borer Impacting Dubuque

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a destructive insect that kills ash trees, was confirmed in Dubuque County in August of 2015.

The City of Dubuque has approximately 1,300 ash trees that are considered street trees (located between the curb and sidewalk) and approximately 450 ash trees located on other City properties such as parks and green space. This inventory accounts for almost 25 percent of the City's street trees. The City does not have an inventory of private trees or trees within the woodlands, hills, bluffs, and undeveloped right of ways on City property.

As the City's Park Division continues to aggressively remove dead and declining ash trees—most of which are street trees—many neighborhoods throughout the city could be impacted. If an ash

tree has been removed adjacent to a homeowner's property, the crew will return at a later date to remove the stump.

Homeowners should be aware of the dangers of dead and declining ash trees infected by EAB. If you are not sure if you have an ash tree on your property, please visit www.cityofdubuque.org/EAB for tips on identifying ash trees, answers to frequently asked questions, and other valuable information regarding the City's plan for Emerald Ash Borer. §



New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Holly Andresen - Transit | Justin Pergande - Public Works |
| Mirdza Berzins - Library | Jonathan Rothering - Recreation |
| Marianne Black - Library | Heather Satterly - AmeriCorps |
| William Frye - Transit | Nicholas Soppe - Police |
| Bailey Keimig - Library | Joseph Steuck - Recreation |
| Thomas Kuhle - Public Works | Matthew Uthe - Public Works |
| Emily Kuhlmann - Library | Amy Wilhelm - Library |
| Tina Malone - Airport | |

The City of Dubuque congratulates these recent retirees:

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| Luke Duve - Public Works | Mike McMahon - Fire |
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The City of Dubuque welcomes these new* and reappointed board or commission members:

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Community Development Advisory Commission | Mechanical & Plumbing Code Board |
| Gerald Hammel, Jr.* | Corey Valaskey |
| Thomas Wainwright | |
| Julie Woodyard | Mediacom Charitable Foundation |

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| Historic Preservation Commission | Gail Chavenelle |
| Kayla Morrison* | Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission |
| | Ray Werner* |

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| Housing Code of Appeals | Resilient Community Advisory Commission |
| Mary Gotz | Shane Hoeper* |
| Christopher Lammer-Heidel | |

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| Housing Commission | |
| Adam Babinat* | |
| Gail Weitz* | |

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Human Rights Commission |  |
| Anthony Allen | facebook.com/CityofDubuque |
| Nicole Borovic |  |
| Ashley Melchert* | twitter.com/CityofDubuque |

May

- 2 Cable TV Commission, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 2 Zoning Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 3 Resilient Community Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 5 City Parks open for 2018 season
- 7 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 8 Park and Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Location TBD
- 8 Human Rights Commission, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 10 Transit Advisory Board Meeting, 4:15 p.m., Intermodal Conference Room, 950 Elm St.
- 14 Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., City Hall Annex
- 14 City Council Work Session on Five Flags, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 15 Housing Board of Appeals Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 15 Community Development Advisory Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 16 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 17 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 19 National Kids to Parks Day – Free admission to Eagle Point Park
- 21 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Housing Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 22 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library
- 24 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 24 Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 26 Tentative opening date for Sutton and Flora pools
- 28 City offices closed for Memorial Day (Trash and recycling collection on Saturday, May 26)

June

- 7 Resilient Community Advisory Commission Meeting, 5 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 4 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 6 Cable TV Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Conf. Room I, City Hall Annex
- 6 Zoning Advisory Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 11 Human Rights Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Conf. Room II, City Hall Annex
- 12 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Location TBD
- 12 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 18 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 19 Housing Board of Appeals Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 20 Assisted Housing Resident Advisory Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 19 Community Development Advisory Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 20 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 28 Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m., Lacy Board Room
- 28 Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting, 5 p.m., Historic Federal Building
- 25 Airport Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Dubuque Jet Center
- 26 Housing Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., Suite 312, Historic Federal Building
- 26 Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Lacy Board Room, C-S Public Library

This calendar does not include all events and is subject to change. Sign up for Dubuque's "Notify Me" e-mail/text alert system at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme to receive agendas, news releases, event notifications, and other timely news.

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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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.



Crescent Community Health Center has a new dental services location at Stonehill Care Center at 3485 Windsor Ave. To schedule your appointment, please call the dental team at (563) 690-2852.