

CITYnews

Bond Sales Generate \$4.5 Million in Savings and Water Revenue Bonds Credit Rating Upgraded

The City of Dubuque's strong financial condition was affirmed by Moody's Investor Services twice in early May and general obligation bonds sold that same week generated \$4.5 million in interest savings for the City.

"These acknowledgements by Moody's confirm the Mayor and City Council's financially sound decision-making. In the next fiscal year, Dubuque will have the second lowest property tax rate of Iowa's largest cities, a general fund reserve of nearly \$18 million, and will be at just 45% of its statutory debt limit," said Dubuque City Manager Mike Van Milligen. "That leadership has put Dubuque in a strong position to capitalize on favorable financial markets and make critical investments in the community."

Mayor and City Council Sound Financial Management Saves Taxpayers \$4.5 Million in Interest Payments

On Monday, May 3, the City sold \$29.5 million in tax-exempt general obligation bonds and \$12.5 million in taxable general obligation bonds, receiving a 1.36% rate on the non-taxable bonds and 1.62% rate on taxable bonds.

Of the \$42 million in bond revenues, nearly \$37 million will be used to refund previously issued debt. The favorable rates will save the City \$4.5 million in interest over the life of the current debt that is being refinanced. The remaining \$5 million will fund a variety of projects.

This general obligation bond issuance follows a credit opinion report from Moody's earlier in the week that affirmed the City of Dubuque's credit rating of Aa3 on all outstanding general obligation bonds.

Water Enterprise Revenue Bonds Credit Rating Upgraded

Moody's upgraded the City of Dubuque's Water Enterprise's outstanding revenue bonds to A1 from A2 in early May. The water enterprise has \$28 million in long-term debt, of which \$4.2 million is outstanding revenue bonds.

Moody's said the upgrade to A1 reflects the water enterprise's "very strong cash position, updated system condition, and strong capital and operational planning with unlimited rate setting authority." The rating also incorporates a moderate debt burden, strong debt service coverage on senior lien parity debt which narrows but remains

The Dubuque Visiting Nurses Association is offering FREE walk-in vaccinations of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson (if available) at their location at 660 Iowa Street:

- Monday, July 5, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Friday, July 9, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 16, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 23, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 26, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Friday, July 30, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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adequate when considering total debt service coverage.

Moody's provides credit ratings and research covering debt instruments and securities. The purpose of Moody's ratings is to provide investors with a simple system to gauge future relative creditworthiness of securities. The firm uses nine rating classifications to designate least credit risk to greatest credit risk: Aaa, Aa, A, Baa, Ba, B, Caa, Ca, and C. Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each rating classification. Revenue bonds rated A are judged to be upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category. §

COVID-19 Vaccinations

As we return to summer travel, gatherings, and events, residents who are not yet vaccinated for COVID-19 are reminded to take precautions. Although restrictions have eased and the number of new cases is down, COVID-19 is still present in our community and getting vaccinated is the best way to end the pandemic. Parents and guardians are encouraged to get adolescents (age 12-18) vaccinated before school resumes in August.

Local pharmacies are also offering walk-in vaccinations.

For assistance in getting vaccinated, including transportation, or details on other vaccination opportunities, call the Sleeves Up! Call Center at 563-690-MAKE (6253) or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/sleevesup. §



Summer Pool Hours and Offerings

Based on the projected level of pool staff and in order to operate safely and equitably, the Leisure Services Department will operate Flora and Sutton Pools a bit differently this year. **Monday - Friday the pools will operate on an A/B schedule that switches every two weeks. Flora will be open Saturdays (closed Sundays) while Sutton will be open Sundays (closed Saturdays.)** This will allow staff to alternate between pools. A full schedule, details on COVID-19 safety protocols, and printable open swim and waterwalking schedules are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/pools. Below are schedules for open swim and adult swim / waterwalking.

Open Swim - Weekdays

Dates	Days / Time	Pool
June 14 - June 25	M - F, 1-4:30 p.m.	Flora
June 28 - July 9	M - F, 1-4:30 p.m.	Sutton
July 12 - July 23	M - F, 1-4:30 p.m.	Flora
July 26 - August 6	M - F, 1-4:30 p.m.	Sutton

Open Swim - Weekends

Days	Time	Pool
Saturdays	10 a.m.-1 p.m., 1:30-4:30 p.m.	Flora
Sundays	10 a.m.-1 p.m., 1:30-4:30 p.m.	Sutton

Adult Swim / Waterwalking - Weekdays

Dates	Days / Time	Pool
June 14 - June 25	M - F, 7-8:30 a.m.	Flora
	M - F, 7-11, 12 - 4:30 p.m.	Sutton
June 28 - July 9	M - F, 7-8:30 a.m.	Sutton
	M - F, 7-11, 12 - 4:30 p.m.	Flora
July 12 - July 23	M - F, 7-8:30 a.m.	Flora
	M - F, 7-11, 12 - 4:30 p.m.	Sutton
July 26 - August 6	M - F, 7-8:30 a.m.	Sutton
	M - F, 7-11, 12 - 4:30 p.m.	Flora

ADMISSION

There will be **no swim passes** this year. Three options for admission include:

1) Daily Admission

3 & Younger	Free
Ages 4-17	\$2
Ages 18+	\$4

2) Punch Cards (purchase at the pool)

10-punch card	\$20
20-punch card	\$40

3) Adult Open Swim and Parent/Tot Water Playground Program Passes

Ages 6 and under	\$10
Ages 18+	\$50

Not valid for open swim. Purchase online at www.cityofdubuque.org/523 through program registration or in-person at the pool.

We appreciate your patience as we address staffing, safety, and access to our pools this summer! If we eventually have enough staff to be able to have regular open swim at both pools, then we will reduce the Adult Swim only hours and change to regular open swim.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/pools or call 563-589-4263



WE'VE MOVED

The Inspection & Construction Services Department, formerly the Building Services Department, has moved office locations from City Hall to the Historic Federal Building at 350 West 6th Street, Suite 312 (inside the Housing & Community Development Department.)

More information is available at www.cityofdubuque.org/ics or by calling 563-589-4150.



“Resiliency Flows” has been selected by the community planning committee as the theme for this year’s Art on the River exhibition to inspire sculpture proposals that speak to the resiliency and fortitude needed to rebuild better as communities worldwide continue to rebound from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and response to the ongoing fight for social justice.

An opening reception is planned for Friday, Aug. 6, from 5-7 p.m. on the patio of the Grand River Center. The reception is free and open to the public with opportunities to meet the artists. The reception will also feature the Dubuque’s Urban Sketchers, the Plein Air Painters of Dubuque, and Heritage Works as part of the evening’s program. The opening reception takes place in conjunction with a weekend line-up of arts and cultural events including the Taste of Summer series hosted by the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium on Aug. 5 and DubuqueFest on Aug. 7 - 8. More information is available at www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver or by contacting City of Dubuque Arts & Cultural Affairs Coordinator Jenni Petersen-Brant at jbrant@cityofdubuque.org or 563-690-6059. §



STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Roy D. Buol

Summer 2021

As we collectively greet the summer season, let us be hopeful ~

*“The past is a source of knowledge,
and the future is a source of hope.
Understanding of the past implies faith in the future.
~Stephen Ambrose, American historian~*

Following revised guidance from the CDC for fully vaccinated individuals, Dubuque’s face covering requirement was lifted mid-May. On behalf of my City Council colleagues and City Staff, I want to express our gratitude to all who respected and followed the guidance and took the other necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19.

We are encouraged by the number of people who have been vaccinated and thankful for all the vaccine providers, health care providers, public health professionals, and volunteers who have been and continue to work faithfully to vaccinate all who are willing. Their efforts have assisted our businesses to begin operating with fewer restrictions, enabling our economy to move forward in its recovery. Importantly, we are able to safely return to a more normal way of living...enjoying gatherings with family and friends, supporting our local restaurants and establishments, and anticipating a summer schedule of valued community events.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is aimed at expanding vaccination availability and distribution throughout the country to achieve herd immunity and at mitigating the negative impacts of the pandemic on the local, regional, and national economy.

The City of Dubuque has received nearly half of the almost \$28 million in the federal funds it expects to receive to assist with the COVID-19 recovery. These funds are specifically directed to provide relief for impacted individuals and households, private businesses, tourism, travel, hospitality, and non- profits; reimbursement for lost revenues to the City; and necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

A group of more than 75 city staff and community partners, from broad and diverse backgrounds, have been meeting and

collaborating to explore best utilization of ARPA funds and enhanced grant programs. Many in our community were negatively affected by the pandemic. Individuals, families, and those who were already facing economic challenges were the most severely impacted and are expected to be a significant focus of Dubuque’s ARPA efforts.

Postponed City projects and capital investments in broadband and water infrastructure planning and construction will receive ARPA funding. Small businesses and non-profits are also eligible for grant funding through federal grant programs and ARPA.

Our community’s valued history of strong collaboration between the public, private, and non-profit sectors has served us well and will continue to guide our use and investment of ARPA funding for our community. More information will be shared as those plans are finalized, and projects/programs are prioritized for funding and implementation.

Veterans Memorial Plaza Improvements Completed

I had the honor of participating in the rededication ceremony of the Veterans Memorial Plaza on Chaplain Schmitt Island over Memorial Day weekend. If you have not yet visited the plaza since the \$3.2 million improvement project was completed, I encourage you to do so. The new additions to the plaza, notably the inclusion of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, have created a cherished place for quiet reflection, contemplation, appreciation, and celebration of the patriotism, service, and sacrifice of all Veterans.

We extend immense gratitude to the Dubuque Racing Association for funding this project as well as providing annual financial support to the City of Dubuque for its maintenance. We should all take great pride in our City serving as home to such a meaningful and exquisite plaza to honor our Veterans, pronouncing their unwavering commitment to protecting our nation’s highest ideals of freedom and equality.

You can watch the rededication ceremony video and learn more about the plaza and how to purchase a memorial paver and more at www.cityofdubuque.org/vetsplaza. §

Rossman Named Library Director



The Carnegie-Stout Public Library Board of Trustees recently named Nicholas Rossman as the new library director, succeeding Susan Henricks who recently retired.

Rossman holds a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has garnered 13 years of comprehensive

library experience at the Waterloo Public Library, including most recently serving as director. Rossman and his wife are originally from Dubuque and were eager to return with their family.

“As a Dubuque native, the opportunity to lead library staff with a mission of improving the quality of life for the citizens of Dubuque, enhancing literacy, and promoting life-long learning is very exciting,” said Rossman, “I look forward to promoting a forward-thinking, inclusive philosophy toward library and community service.” §

New Faces

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Matthew Fetzer - Fire | Wilbert Pearsall - Transit |
| Kory Foht - Fire | Nicholas Rossman - Library |
| Justin Geyer - Fire | Grant Sanders - Airport |
| Kael Jauron - Airport | Jacob Shaffer - Transit |
| Austin Kutz - Fire | Justin Steckel - Public Works |
| Andrew Lahey - Fire | Christopher Tallman - Fire |
| Robert McDonald - Engineering | |
| Nathanial Mutzl - Fire | |

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new commission members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Human Rights Commission | Zoning Advisory Commission |
| Jake Kurczek | Teri Zuccaro |

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE DUBUQUE REGIONAL AIRPORT



July 2 - Aircraft Viewing: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
See aircraft utilized in July 3rd airshow demonstration and fireworks. FREE event (goodwill donations for Veterans Freedom Center)

July 3 - Airshow & Fireworks
A.Y. McDonald Park (Hawthorne St. & Volunteer Dr.)
Schedule at www.fireworks.radiodubuque.com

July 18-21 - NATA (North American Trainers Assoc.) WWII Aircraft
Public can view aircraft from EAA Observation Area located off Aviation Drive, Dubuque - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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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.

CALENDAR

July

- 5 City offices closed for Independence Day (no change in trash/recycling collection)
- 6 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting*
- 19 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., virtual meeting*

August

- 2 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building
- 6 Art on the River: Resilient Earth Opening, Mississippi Riverwalk, 5-7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

At time of publication, all public meetings are being held virtually to abide by social distancing guidelines. For details, visit cityofdubuque.org/agendas or call 563.589.4120. City Council meetings are City Council meeting are aired live on CityChannel Dubuque (Mediacom channels 8 and 117.2) and streamed live and archived on the City's website at www.cityofdubuque.org/media, and streamed live on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofdubuque.

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.

AmeriCorps is Hiring...and Gets a New Look!

AmeriCorps members support students with improving their literacy, but also with building their self-confidence. These AmeriCorps members hold a special place in our schools and within the hearts and minds of our students. Members earn a stipend and education credit for themselves, children, or grandchildren. We are currently hiring for a variety of positions starting in August/September:

Part-Time (10-20 hours per week)

- Academic Reading tutors for the 2021-2022 school year
- Social-Emotional learning specialists with St. Mark Youth Enrichment

Full-Time - September '21 through August '22

- Early Literacy Specialist with Carnegie-Stout Public Library
- Mentor Specialist with Mentor Dubuque
- Teen Education Specialist with Hillcrest Family Services
- Teen Engagement Specialist with Multicultural Family Center

Learn more and apply at www.cityofdubuque.org/AmeriCorps or call 563-690-6171.




After over 25 years, the AmeriCorps program has a new logo! Watch for the new branding, developed at the Federal AmeriCorps level, throughout Dubuque as its members continue to proudly serve children and teens our community. §

City to Remove Stumps, Repair Impacted Sidewalks

The City of Dubuque is in the process of addressing the removal of over 400 stumps between the sidewalk and curb around the city, where trees have been removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Associated sidewalks disturbed by the stump may need to be repaired. The city council has approved a new policy where the City will repair the sidewalk impacted by trees/stumps. Two hundred of the stumps/sidewalk locations will be addressed this year and 200 next year. Residents will receive a letter if their stump/sidewalk will be addressed this year. This year's work is estimated to be completed by November 30. For additional information, contact the Engineering Department at 563-589-4270 §