



STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Roy D. Buol

Fall 2021

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

~Marie Curie

As summer ends and fall approaches, families are preparing for school, college students will soon leave home for campuses, and we all look forward to fall activities and traditions. Unfortunately, a dark cloud of uncertainty and concern is hanging over us.

Driven by the fast-spreading Delta variant, searching out the unvaccinated as it rages through states including Iowa, we now face the biggest risk to our people and the economic progress we were anticipating.

As I write this message, in early August a little more than half of the population of Dubuque County is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, our singular best option to putting this pandemic behind us. In late July, nearly 200 local health care providers representing 12 Dubuque County medical organizations issued a unified message endorsing the vaccine and urging residents to get vaccinated.

It is my sincere hope that unvaccinated residents, those who have no medical reason to not be vaccinated, will hear this message from the same local doctors that otherwise care for them, their families, and friends. As they said, we are in a situation where we can prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 by vaccination.

If you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should continue to mask and take other precautions until you are. And for those who are vaccinated, please pay close attention to the evolving science and recommendations regarding masking and breakthrough infections. Details on vaccination opportunities are available by calling 563-690-6253 or at www.cityofdubuque.org/sleevesup.

Miracle League of Dubuque Complex Dedication

I was honored to proclaim Aug. 10, 2021, as “Miracle League of Dubuque Day” to coincide with and celebrate the official dedication of the Miracle League of Dubuque Complex. This amazing new facility, located at Veterans Memorial Park, provides a beautiful space for all community members to play alongside their peers, regardless of their abilities.

Nearly 1,700 children and youth in the Dubuque School District have been diagnosed with some type of disability and more than 4,000 children and youth with disabilities live in the surrounding area. The Miracle League of Dubuque Complex features a baseball field, and the all-inclusive playground gives these individuals the opportunity to experience the joy of being a part of a team and play along with their peers on playground equipment that is accessible to them.

On behalf of our entire community, I commend the residents, services clubs, organizations, and businesses whose efforts and generosity made this project possible. All the funds needed for the construction of this project were raised privately by the Miracle League of Dubuque. The City of Dubuque donated the land and is maintaining and operating the complex. City staff are working with Miracle League representatives on programming activities for the complex. This is a wonderful example of a private/public partnership that helps to make our community more inclusive and equitable.

Imagine Dubuque

I trust the example of the Miracle League Complex project will inspire even more residents to identify and pursue or support projects they believe will improve our community.

Imagine Dubuque is our City’s comprehensive plan. Over 6,000 of our residents provided input for the development of the plan, leading to 110 recommendations! The plan was adopted by the City Council in 2017.

Imagine Dubuque invites you to join with other “champions” and volunteers to facilitate progress. Individuals, families, groups, clubs, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to review the *Imagine Dubuque* categories (see below) to identify projects and initiatives that align with their needs/wants, values, and vision for Dubuque and then get involved!

Imagine Dubuque categories include: **Robust Local Economy... Sustainable Environment... Social + Cultural Vibrancy... Livable Neighborhoods + Housing... Community Facilities... Transportation + Mobility, and Land Use.**

To learn more about how you can support ideas that are important to you and your quality of life, visit www.imaginedubuque.com or call the City’s Planning Services Department at 563-589-4210. Thank you! §