



THE CITY OF  
**DAVENPORT**  
IOWA | USA

COMPLEX UNAPOLOGETICALLY  
MIDWESTERN REGION  
WELCOMING VIBRANT  
NEIGHBORHOODS FISCAL VITALITY  
HIGH-PERFORMING GOVERNMENT

# CITY OF DAVENPORT

WELL-PROTECTED  
GOALS HONEST  
RESILIENT COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY  
SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE  
GIVING

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**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**  
**MONTHLY UPDATE**

*December* 2022





# Davenport Strengths Institute - 10th Cohort Graduation

City staff in the 10th cohort of the Davenport Strengths Institute (DSI) graduated in December after completing the 12-month strengths-based leadership program. Participants included Andrew Burken, Fire; Mollie Van Camp, Lauren Anderson, Geoff Peiffer, Kevin Carver, Lucas Rusk, and Greg Lalla, Police; Andi Davis, IT; Gina Lechvar, HR; Allie McWilliams, Admin; Trish Moses, Kevin Randle, Amy Boldt, Todd Hamann, and Yvette Keyes-Hegg, Public Works; Tori Nelson and Hanna Whitehurst, Finance; Jamie Swanson, Revenue; and Becca Niles, Parks & Recreation.



Cohort 11 is underway and participants will graduate in June 2023. Cohort 12 commences on their strengths-based journey in January 2023. To date, over 176 employees representing every City department have either graduated or are currently in the program. The International City County Management Association (ICMA) awarded their Strategic Leadership & Governance Award to DSI in 2021.

## CitiBus Workshop



CitiBus Transit hosted a Transit Symposium aimed at educating riders and potential riders about available transit services. The public meeting was well-attended by community members and partner agencies. Staff had the opportunity to engage in community conversation about the City’s transit services and receive feedback on the services provided.

## Small Business DBE Workshop

The Purchasing Division hosted a Small Business and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Workshop to educate area businesses on the City of Davenport’s bidding process and break down barriers to entry to doing business with the City. Staff shared how the City’s procurement process works, examples of goods and services the City purchases, how to access open bids, and demonstrated supplier registration, account maintenance and bid/proposal submission in the electronic bidding system, IonWave. Information on the DBE program was also shared with participants. DBE certification is administered by the Civil Rights Bureau through the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The workshop was well-attended with 18 participants representing several area small businesses. The crowd was engaged and many questions were answered by staff.

# Destination Iowa Grant

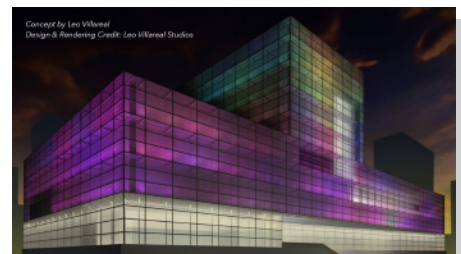
On December 2, Governor Reynolds announced \$9.6 million has been awarded to the City of Davenport and the Figge Art Museum through the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Destination Iowa Creative Placemaking Fund for a series of signature projects along the Davenport riverfront. Destination Iowa seeks to create attractive and memorable places for people to live and work through transformational projects that leverage community assets to improve the experience for visitors and residents.

The City of Davenport's project, in coordination with the Figge Art Museum, will include the following improvements at Main Street Landing:

- Installation of a high-intensity, multi-generational experience zone that will include, but is not limited to, a signature tower structure, slides, climbing assets, an interactive water feature, and a space for winter activities.
- Creation of a passive activity zone close to Lock and Dam 15 that highlights the existing amphitheater and scenic views.
- Additions such as a new restroom facility, colorful LED lighting, shade structures, seating, and unique swing elements.
- Installation of a railroad quiet zone that will stretch from Marquette Street to Mound Street to reduce noise pollution and increase safety throughout the downtown riverfront.
- Construction of a pedestrian bridge that allows continuous and safe access over the Canadian Pacific rail line.
- Renovation and upgrade of the Skybridge facility's LED lighting system.
- Installation of artistic LED programmable lighting on the exterior of the Figge Art Museum that will consist of over 3,000 feet of colorful fixtures.

The project is estimated to cost \$24 million. The Destination Iowa award will provide \$9.6 million - \$8 million for the City's project at Main Street Landing and \$1.6 million for the Figge Art Museum's light feature. The City will fund the remaining \$12 million for the riverfront improvements through local ARPA funds and the Canadian Pacific Community Investment Agreement. The Figge will contribute the additional \$2.4 million for the lighting of its façade.

Construction of the project is expected to begin in the summer of 2024 and be completed in the spring of 2026.





# Business Leader Luncheon

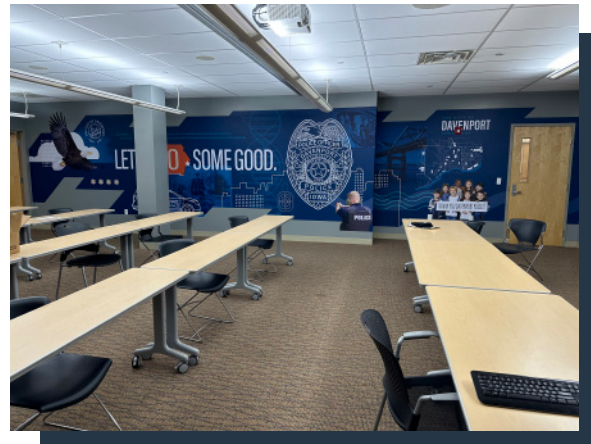
In December, Mayor Matson hosted a luncheon where Chief Bladel briefed Davenport business leaders on crime trends in our community and new initiatives that are being implemented by the Davenport Police Department.

This meeting provided an opportunity for business leaders to have an open dialogue with City and law enforcement leaders regarding solutions to the complex challenges facing the Davenport community in regards to violent crime. Those in attendance shared how insightful the presentation was to their understanding of violent crime in our community and that they were encouraged by the work the Davenport Police Department is doing in conjunction with other community partners across the entire public safety continuum.



## Briefing Room Updates

The interior of the Davenport Police Department Briefing Room looks a little different. The space utilized by the department's Patrol Division for daily briefings was updated with new lighting, paint, podium, and wall graphics. The new graphics display photos and elements representing the department's history, community, technology, future, and features including the department's oath. The oath expresses the dedication of each officer to serve and protect their community with a commitment to upholding each individual community member's constitutional rights.



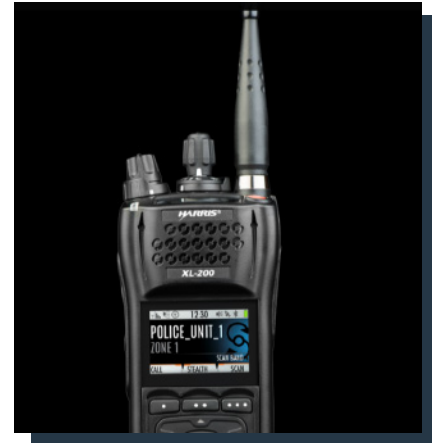
## DFD New Recruits Start Academy

The next generation of Davenport Firefighters began an eight-week Fire Academy on December 19. This academy is the largest recruit class in decades for the DFD with 10 recruits. Due to the size of the recruit class, training is being held at Central Fire Station. Throughout the Fire Academy the recruits will have daily classroom and hands on training. Once complete, the recruits will be certified in Firefighter I and II, Hazard Material, and have obtained skill sets that will be used on shift when assigned to a company in 2023.



# Public Safety Agencies Complete Interoperable Digital Radio System

In early December, Scott County area public safety agencies, led by the Scott Emergency Communications Center, implemented the final pieces of an interoperable, digital public safety radio system known as P-25. This system provides a new communications platform for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services agencies in Scott County, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois.



This new system ensures that local agencies can easily communicate across all agencies in both counties while interfacing with other systems utilized by statewide agencies on both sides of the river.

This new encrypted system allows for reliable communications for law enforcement and medical professionals to securely communicate and coordinate efforts on encrypted channels during routine and emergency operations. Moving to this new system and encryption not only protects community members' personal and public health information, but it also enhances operational security for QC first responders.

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## Davenport Police Attend Violent Crime Reduction Summit

Chief Jeff Bladel, Captain Greg Behning, and Lieutenant Austin Kean participated in the National Public Safety Partnership's (PSP) Violent Crime Reduction Summit in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Hosted by the Department of Justice, this summit was a chance for executive leaders and key stakeholders from PSP sites across the country to convene to discuss evidence-based practices aimed at increasing public safety, enhancing partnerships between the participating agencies, and reduce violent crime within their respective communities. Davenport representatives had a chance to meet with their federal partners to discuss the topic of gun violence as well as learn about other community violence initiatives being implemented by peer PSP sites across the country.



# Library Updates

1

## Winter Wellness Fair

Social Worker Quinn O'Brian organized a wellness fair in partnership with several community organizations. This event included free wellness screenings, vaccinations, laundry tokens, and more. Davenport Public Library welcomed over 275 people throughout the event.



2

## New Service Launched

The Library launched a new service that offers recommendations from staff directly to patrons' emails. New titles are delivered to inboxes once a month based on preferences.

3

## Dinosaurs Take Over the Library

In November, Dinosaurs took over the Library in celebration of Dinovember. Young patrons graciously dropped off their dino friends to the Library to live and work for an entire month. While away from their tiny humans, the Dinosaurs had a blast learning about the Library and causing a little trouble along the way. This program was a HUGE success and so much fun for Library staff.



4

## Staff Picks

The Library released their annual Staff Picks Publication. Visit any Davenport Public Library branch to pick up top picks from staff.





**ALISON FLEMING**  
**Human Resource Director**

Fleming completed the SHRM certification exam, earning the designation of SHRM-SCP (Society for Human Resource Management-Senior Certified Professional).

The SHRM-SCP certification is for individuals whose work includes duties such as developing HR policies or procedures, overseeing the execution of integrated HR operations, directing an entire HR enterprise, or leading the alignment of HR strategies to organizational goals.

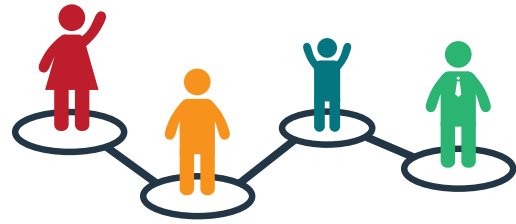
This four-hour test covers the nine behavioral competencies and 14 functional areas of the SHRM BASK (Body of Applied Skills and Knowledge). This SHRM credential provides reliable indicators to the global business community that Fleming is a recognized expert and leader in the HR field with the necessary capabilities in both aspects of HR practice—competencies and knowledge—that are required for effective job performance.

By completing this application Fleming is proven to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to handle HR topics and situations as they arise within our organization.



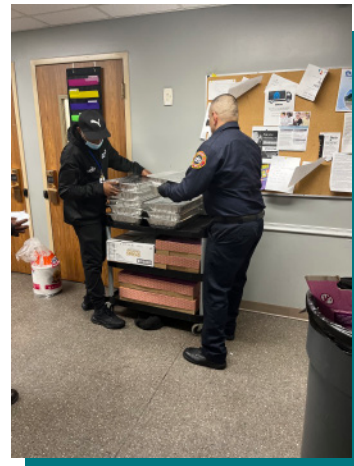
**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# Community Engagement



## DFD Holiday Meals

The annual holiday luncheon hosted by Davenport Fire at the Center for Active Seniors Inc. (CASI) was held on December 13. Led by Engineer Packy Dolan, meals were prepared at Central Fire Station and later served by firefighters, Fire Santa, and Mrs. Claus. This tradition has been part of the DFD for over 20 years and is enjoyed by all involved. In addition to CASI, DFD had the opportunity to deliver prepared meals to the Humility of Mary Shelter.



## Keep the Wreath Red

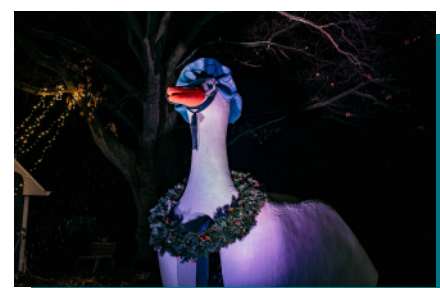
For the third year, Davenport Fire Department joined the public safety campaign known as “Keep the Wreath Red” to promote fire safety as thousands of residents decorated for the holidays. Firefighters placed a wreath at Station 3 and for each residential fire that occurred, a light bulb was changed from red to white. The wreath served as a visual reminder that the holiday season can be a dangerous time for fires in the home. Those who passed the fire station received a subtle reminder that a home fire is always a possibility and the wreath subconsciously prompted citizens to practice holiday fire and home heating safety.





## Holiday Lights in Parks

Between Thanksgiving weekend and shortly after the new year, Fejervary Learning Center and Vander Veer Botanical Park, including the Conservatory, were festively adorned with bright lights and holiday décor. The Fejervary Holiday Light Display, a light show synchronized to music, ran 10 shows per night every day of the week, approximately 450 total shows during its runtime. This year's show was bigger and brighter with double the lights from previous years, coming in at over 4 miles of cables and a brand new 20-foot "Frosty the Snowman" built by West High School's welding class. The Poinsettia and Holiday Lights at Vander Veer Botanical Park and Conservatory were seen by well over 3,500 guests enjoying not only the decorations, but the new gardening inspired ornament scavenger hunt.



## Letters to the North Pole

This holiday season, a new initiative invited youth to drop off "Letters to the North Pole" at The River's Edge, Fejervary Learning Center, or Vander Veer Conservatory. Over 60 letters were received and each child was sent a special response from "one of Santa's helpers."



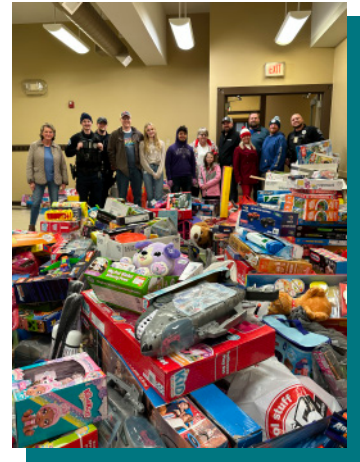
## Quarterly GNP Meeting

The final Good Neighbor Project meeting of the year was hosted in December. Good Neighbor Project attendees received updates from City staff and Davenport Police during an end-of-year wrap up, and listened to a presentation on the Group Violence Intervention strategy.



## Davenport Police Host Annual Toy Drive

Davenport Police officers collected hundreds of toys this holiday season during the Davenport Police Association's Annual Toy Drive. The new toys were given to children in Family Resource's domestic violence shelters, child advocate programs, victims of sexual assaults, other at-risk programs, and to children in the adopt-a-family program.



## DPD Hosts Fingerprinting Merit Badge

In mid-December, fifteen local scouts earned their Fingerprinting Merit Badge during an event hosted by the Davenport Police Department Training Bureau and Crime Scene Technicians. Scouts learned about the history of fingerprinting, the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS), and biometric fingerprint systems. To earn their merit badge, participants used hands on methods to lift prints, make fingerprint identification cards, and learned to identify the different type of fingerprint patterns and their subcategories.



## QC Youth - Law & Public Safety Day

In early December, over 100 Quad City high school students had an opportunity to learn more about the law and public safety in their community along with careers in law enforcement through a partnership with Scott Community College. Davenport Police were joined by the Scott County Sheriff's Office, the Iowa 7th Judicial District Court Services, and Iowa Department of Corrections for a panel discussion and Q and A session. Students toured the Scott County Jail, Davenport Police Department, and sat in on a live court proceeding to learn more about the judicial process within the community.



## Cops and Cocoa

Community members kicked off the Holiday season with Davenport Police at Vander Veer Botanical Park inside the Conservatory during the second Annual Cops & Cocoa event. Over 500 community members enjoyed the holiday lights displays and shared conversation with DPD officers.



## Junior Achievement Inspire Career Expo

DFD and DPD were present at the Junior Achievement Inspire Career Expo where local 8th graders attended this hands-on event to prepare for the future. Students had the chance to meet with local professionals, take part in interactive activities, and investigate potential professions. Staff spoke with students about the process of pursuing a career in Davenport public safety, provided information on DFD Fire Explorer Program, and also the importance of P.A.S.S. (Pull-Aim-Squeeze-Sweep) when extinguishing a fire.

