

May 2023

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

[Monthly Update]

Keep up with the city you know and love



Unpretentious-

[adjective]

not attempting to impress others with an appearance of greater importance, talent, or culture than is actually possessed.

Real-

[adjective]

(of a substance or thing) not imitation or artificial; genuine.

Resilient-

[adjective]

(of a person or animal) able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.

Welcoming-

[adjective]

behaving in a polite or friendly way to a guest or new arrival.



01 FLOOD UPDATE

As a resilient community, the City positioned itself at the ready for potential spring flooding beginning in February with seasonal flood preparedness and a close eye on the National Weather Service Spring Flood Outlooks. And ready we were, as the flood forecast changed from minor inconvenience in February to a possible new historic crest at plus or minus a foot from 22 FT in April.

As the City headed into March, it became clear flood risk could be significant, calling for property owners to prepare for flooding as the City prepared. To assist, community meetings were held in March to help connect property owners with resources to reduce flood risk well before the river rose.

Forecast to reach flood Action Stage of 13 FT in days ahead, the City activated its flood plan on April 6 in response to arriving river stages. The response went like clockwork from there, with the river reaching Moderate Stage on April 21, Minor Flood Stage on April 22, Major Flood Stage on April 25, and cresting at 21.51 on May 1. In total, the river remained above the flood Action Stage of 13 FT for 43 consecutive days and Major Flood Stage of 18 FT for 17 days.

While response went smoothly, some damages were incurred due to river flow and currents that will take time for repair—markedly the pavement, sanitary, and storm sewer failure at Brady and River Dr and Credit Island Lane. Planning and work to perform repairs will continue into June. Noting some damage, Parks and Recreation was pleased to report the resilience of riverfront turf and Credit Island Lodge to flood waters.

On behalf of the DDP Board and downtown stakeholders, **THANK YOU** to City staff and elected officials for the brilliantly managed flood response this spring. There has been overwhelmingly positive commentary from downtown businesses on both the quality of the barrier construction and the daily operations of the Public Works staff making sure the entire floodplain system runs smoothly.

Also, we now have proof the major sewer/stormwater interceptor improvements done along the riverfront during COVID made a measurable impact. Businesses such as Front Street and StompBox on the front lines never experienced sewer backup as in years past, allowing them to remain open even at 21.5 feet of water. It gives me even greater optimism the planned underground improvements at 4th & River Drive and Marquette Street to the west will make the big impact the Flood Mitigation Plan intended.

Thank you for your commitment to keep chipping away at our 9-mile mitigation plan; I realize there's still a lot to do. That said, it's clear we've already made huge improvements since 2019 and more is on the way. Keep up the good work!

*Staff spent an estimated
38,000 hours fighting
the flood!*



02 2023 IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

And that's a wrap on the 2023 Iowa Legislative session! This session included advocacy around a number of issues identified by the City Council as priority areas including property tax reform, automated traffic cameras, tax increment financing, building codes, and funding for a new High-Risk Unit for the 7th Judicial District. City staff worked with our local delegation to help mitigate the impacts of property tax reform, providing timely analysis of different draft proposals throughout the session. Staff also worked with our local delegation and law enforcement to include funding in the State budget for a High-Risk Unit for the 7th Judicial District. This unit will partner with our local law enforcement agencies to increase public safety in our community. As the session came to a close, no legislation was passed for automated traffic cameras, tax increment financing, or building codes.

With the 2023 legislative session now complete, City staff will continue to work with local delegation throughout the summer on a number of priority issues including property tax reform impacts and public safety initiatives.

03 DAVENPORT LEADS THE WAY

Staff members from the City of Davenport were requested by the City of Des Moines and the City of Cedar Rapids to present on best practices that Davenport has implemented.

At the request of the US Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, City staff recently met with the USAO, Des Moines Police Department and the Polk County Attorney's Office to discuss Davenport's implementation of the Group Violence Intervention strategy. City staff shared both the successes and lessons learned in the first year of the GVI strategy, including a nearly 42% decrease in shots fired in 2023 to date as compared to the same time-frame in 2022.

The City of Cedar Rapids Code Enforcement asked to meet with the Development and Neighborhood Services team regarding the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE) accreditation which the City of Davenport received last year. Davenport became the first agency in the state of Iowa and the seventh in the country to earn agency accreditation through the AACE. The teams also had a chance to exchange ideas and discuss issues that both municipalities have in common.



04 WASTEWATER FEES

Staff recently evaluated the services and cost of services for waste hauler discharges at the Water Pollution Control Plant. The charges had not been reviewed or increased in over a decade. Based on the analysis, a proposal for a rate change was submitted to City Council and approved on March 15, 2023. While the rate will not go into effect until July 1, 2024, the City mailed all haulers information on the changes to better prepare customers for the new fee structure and permit requirements. Here are a few highlights of what the changes will mean:

- In the past, haulers were billed a \$750 Burden & Overhead charge that was distributed amongst haulers based on the percentage of total loads accepted at WPCP. The charge is eliminated under the new fee structure.
- The new process clarifies the billing process and makes bills more predictable based on the type and volume of waste discharged at the facility.

05 STREAMBANK MAILER

While the City owns much of the property along Duck Creek, most of the other streams, including Blackhawk, Candlelight, Cardinal, Deere, Goose, Hanlin's, Pheasant, Robin, and Silver Creeks, and their unnamed tributaries primarily run through private property. To help protect our waterways and private property owners along these creeks, the City distributed an informational mailing to nearly 2,100 property owners to educate owners on ways to keep their property safe from erosion and improve the quality of the City's water assets. Focused on buffers, erosion, and dumping, staff is hopeful the step will raise awareness about the issues our waterways face and engage property owners in the conversation about ways to conserve private property and the City's water assets.



06 CITIBUS SPOT APP

CitiBus Transit has a new bus tracking app – SPOT. SPOT rolled out to riders in early May and features real-time bus tracking, personal alert capabilities, and easy-to-use trip planning tools. In coordination with the change, several updates to the CitiBus website were also made to streamline information.





07 NEW OFFICER SWEARING IN

Brandon Connell, Ethan Bock, and Jamie Bennett were sworn in as Davenport Police Officers by Mayor Matson after completing a 16-week basic law enforcement training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). These officers completed their post academy training and began the 17-week Field Training Officer Program where they will learn the skills to serve and protect our community through hands-on experiences and interactions with citizens.



08 CHANGES TO LANDLORD TRAINING PROGRAM

The Development & Neighborhood Services and Police Department worked together to improve the efficiency of and access to the Landlord Education Assistance Program (LEAP) this month. Key changes include:

- Elimination of the \$25 class fee.
- Training at your own pace and 24/7/365 access to landlord resources at www.davenportiowa.com/leap.
- Moving conducting background checks from the Police Department to the Landlord due to free, open to the public, and easy-to-use tools.

The program, designed to help tenants, property owners, and managers keep drugs and illegal activities out of rental properties, will continue to promote a safe, stable, and welcoming environment for all community members, just in a different way that better fits an ever-evolving world.

09 NATIONAL PSP SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

Davenport Police Crime Analyst Alissa Hawk, Gun Crime Data Analyst Bella Zak, and Lieutenant Jason Smith of the Davenport Police Crime Analysis Unit attended the National Public Safety Partnership's Social Network Analysis Peer Learning Workshop in Cleveland, Ohio. This workshop featured analytical tools aimed at providing law enforcement with a comprehensive overview of their at-risk populations while providing opportunities for strategic interventions and actionable intelligence to support crime prevention strategies. Analysts learned to use Social Network Analysis to leverage existing data to better understand group dynamics and social connections of people impacted by, or involved in, violent crime.



10 VANDER VEER FOUNTAIN RETURNS IN TIME FOR SUMMER

Last year, the Vander Veer Stone Fountain was unable to run during the summer season due to multiple plumbing and water retention issues. Staff worked throughout the summer, fall, and into the winter months with contractors to identify leaks, blockages, and cracks within the underground plumbing system. In late April, water meters were reinstalled in parks and water was turned back on. Once this was complete at the fountain, staff once again began the rigorous testing process to identify and repair the last areas of concern. The fountain is now successfully maintaining water pressure, and retaining and recirculating water for the enjoyment of park visitors.



11 DAVENPORTU GRADUATION

The 7th cohort of DavenportU Citizens Academy completed the 9-week program put on by City staff in May, concluding with graduation at the May 24 City Council meeting.

Each session was planned out by the appropriate staff, providing exposure to several departments and staff members. Sessions offered lecture, activities, and tours, and allowed a behind the scenes look to better understand how the City operates. Members of the DavenportU Citizens Academy were very engaged and open to experiencing each of the nine sessions in their entirety.



Employee Spotlight



RYAN PAUSTIAN

Parks Supervisor

Ryan Paustian began with Davenport Parks and Recreation in April 2018 as a Seasonal Laborer. He quickly moved to a year-round, part-time Large Equipment Operator then a full-time Park Technician. In July 2022, Ryan stepped up as interim Parks Manager, temporarily filling the gap left with Don Allen's absence and when the department most needed someone to step in with his knowledge, enthusiasm, and skills. The Parks Manager role transitioned to Parks Supervisor in 2023. Davenport Parks and Recreation is happy to announce that Ryan Paustian has accepted this promotion.

Betsy Tubbs, Senior Parks Manager, stated, "Ryan is an extremely talented operator – he can safely and effectively operate any piece of equipment we have in Parks and Public Works. Ryan is not afraid to work hard! He volunteers for extra work, even when that extra work is at an inconvenient time of day. While Ryan is younger than all of the people that he works with, they respect him because he never asks them to do anything he hasn't done and he will work hard alongside them."



NOON OPTIMIST AWARD

On May 26, the Davenport Noon Optimist Club presented its annual Sergeant Kevin Marxen Respect for Law Award to Davenport Police Sergeant Brandon Koepke. This award is given to a Davenport Police Officer for outstanding performance of his or her duties and dedication to the profession. Congratulations, Sgt. Koepke! We are honored to have you as part of Team Davenport.



OFFICER MARCUS TERRY

"I am writing to you today to let you know how much I appreciate the help and professionalism of Officer Marcus Terry. Officer Terry responded to a two-vehicle accident I was involved in this afternoon (I was the driver at fault). Thankfully, no one was hurt in this incident.

"Officer Terry responded to the incident right away. He was calm and helpful, making sure that everyone was OK. He was also patient and professional throughout the process, which had obviously shaken up everyone who was involved.

"Please share my appreciation with Officer Terry. His kindness and professionalism speak highly of your department."

Sincerely yours-
Matthew

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK CELEBRATION

Always at the ready for a resilient community, the City of Davenport recognized National Public Works Week, May 21 through May 27. While the Public Works team had to postpone celebrating the dedication of its employees until June due to flood response and recovery, the community is encouraged to commend Public Works for the work they do in our community. Above, below and all around you, Public Works is truly everywhere you look this year and every year.

Public service statistics:

- 1,293 lane miles of streets
- 9,781 Sanitary Sewer Manholes
- 13,460 Stormwater Structures
- 448.19 Miles of Sanitary Sewer
- 237.90 Miles of Storm Sewer
- 108 Miles of Streams
- 208 Signalized Intersections
- 22,696 Street Signs
- 27,000+ Public Trees
- Solid waste collection from 32,250 households weekly
- 30 M gallons of sewage treated daily on average

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**THANK YOU PUBLIC WORKS
FOR YOUR DEDICATION
AND DRIVE TO MAKE THE
COMMUNITY BETTER!**

WAY TO GO PARKS AND RECREATION!



Way to go Becca Niles and Brittany Peacock on their presentation at the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association's Spring Conference!

"The Library Partnership session was by far the strongest speaking group I attended."

Another shout out was made regarding Daniel Sheridan.

"Great MC! Really enjoyed his talk about the junior theatre program."



Project Highlights:

Creating Places | MLK Park

On Monday, May 15, City staff joined Friends of MLK, Estes Construction, and Streamline Architects alongside other community partners for the official ribbon cutting of MLK Park. Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the City of Davenport pledged a \$500,000 grant, and signed a long-term lease for the land, with Friends of MLK for the Plaza.

In January 2014, a task force, gathered by former Davenport Mayor Gluba, developed a plan to create the first formal Memorial Day of Dr. King in the City of Davenport. Nine years later, this vision is now becoming a reality.

The design renderings for the MLK Park show a true community space for gathering, learning, remembrance, and celebration.



Planning & Development

Neighborhood Reinvestment

Regional Transitional Housing | Staff and Council continue to explore options within the sector

Creating Places | Neighborhood Parks-Play

Cork Hill, Van Buren, and Herrington Multi-Sport Courts | After the evaluation of the one bid submittal; leadership decided that it was in the best interest of the project to reissue the bid in the fall of 2023. Fall bidding is found to be favorable for construction projects

Emeis Ninja Warrior Playground | Scheduled delivery and installation occurring in June 2023

Emeis Adaptive & Inclusive Playground | In design phase through June of 2023

Creating Places

Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn | City Council recently approved a contract amendment with the project's design firm for the Main Street Landing component of the Destination Iowa project. Design work is expected to take approximately 10-14 months to complete; this includes obtaining any necessary federal or state permits

Library Enhancements

Fairmount Community Center | City staff had their pre-construction meeting on May 12, 2023 with Precision Builders, Inc of Bettendorf, Iowa. Construction is anticipated to begin July 2023. More details to come on an anticipated ground breaking event

West Locust Sewer Connectivity

Duck Creek Sewer | All engineering design documents have been completed. The City is waiting to receive final federal and state permits before going out to bid to secure a construction contract

Multi-Modal Connectivity

Multi-Modal | N/S Path | The design process for the project continues; meanwhile, City staff will soon begin the land acquisition process with affected property owners

Flood Mitigation

Flood Mitigation Stage 22 | HR Green has begun the check plan design (95% plan preparation) and continued coordination with regulatory agencies and private utility owners



Construction

Neighborhood Reinvestment

DREAMPlus | Forty-seven projects are anticipated to be under contract by the end of the quarter. Work has begun for six of these projects

Creating Places | Neighborhood Parks-Play
Whalen Playground | Installation will begin in late June 2023

Cork Hill Splashpad | Design is under the review of City staff and contracted engineers to finalize project engineering plans and specifications

Creating Places

Public Wi-Fi Hot Spots | Staff has completed testing for three locations, has finalized park signage, and are currently preparing promotional material. Full launch is anticipated summer of 2023



Completed

Creating Places | Neighborhood Parks-Play

Installation of Harbor Road playground

Installation of Lafayette Playground

Youth & Family Support

Launch of Coordinated Assessment Program (CAP)

Launch of Group Violence Intervention (GVI)

Creating Places

MLK Plaza: \$500,000 commitment awarded by City Council

Library Enhancements

Hiring of Library Social Worker

Launch of Pre-K Literacy Initiative



01 FIRST GRADE VISITS

The Youth Services and Community Outreach and Marketing Departments just wrapped up their four weeks of first grade visits to all Davenport Community Elementary Schools. The team issued library cards to all first graders that didn't already have a card while presenting a story time, activities, history of their school, and ending with an OWL visit to check out items. The Davenport Public Library is offering an incentive to all Davenport Community School District (DCSD) first graders that visit the Library through the month of August. The Davenport Public Library is grateful to the DCSD for their partnership and passion to spread a love for lifelong learning.



02 ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH READING CHALLENGE

Davenport Public Library celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month through an online reading challenge.

03 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Davenport Public Library is kicking off the Summer Reading Challenge beginning June 1. Pre-registration is open. Staff has spent the month preparing for a busy summer season with an array of community engagement events kicking off in June.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



01 COFFEE WITH A COP

The third annual Coffee with a Cop series was a huge success. Davenport Police partnered with Hy-Vee to host five events on various Thursday mornings from March to May. These events brought together community members, elected officials, City staff, and Davenport Police Officers of various ranks.

02 GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT SUMMER EVENTS KICKOFF

The Good Neighbor Project (GNP) events are in full swing for the summer. GNP partners at St. Anthony's Catholic Church recently connected with new GNP leaders from Novelis of Davenport to collaborate on a clothing drive to support the McAnthony Window which serves meals to the hungry, distributes food through their pantry, provides clothing and blankets to people, and more.

Davenport Police and The Good Neighbor Project partnered up with Big Brother's Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley at their Spring into Adventure event. Over 160 people including Bigs, Littles, and their families attended this annual health and wellness event. At the event, all were encouraged to try health and wellness activities such as coping mechanisms, flow art, a one-mile walk, CrossFit, and more! Littles were able to take home a bike, helmet, and lock to encourage a healthy, safe, and fun summer!



03 OPTIMIST BIKE RODEO

Davenport Police Officers provided safety tips and helped Davenport youth test their riding skills at the Noon Optimist Club's Ready to Ride Bike Safety Rodeo. Kids tested out their skills on an obstacle course, learned safe riding habits from officers, and had the opportunity to win bikes, helmets, and other bike safety items.

04 MAY FEJERVARY FAMILY FUN DAYS PROMOTING KIDS TO PARKS

Davenport Parks and Recreation celebrated Kids to Parks day on Saturday, May 20 at the first Fejervary Family Fun Day of the year. Over 200 kids and adults joined the fun at Fejervary Learning Center with activities such as a petting zoo, bounce houses, the Davenport Public Library's OWL, spring time obstacle course, mini pitch soccer, and nature/garden crafts.



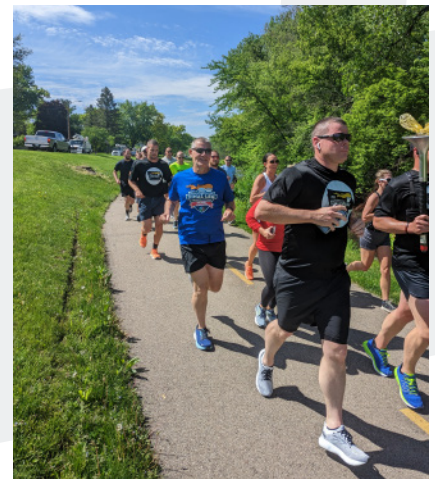
05 HY-VEE SPRINGTIME PARTY

Davenport Police partnered with Hy-Vee Northgate to help raise donations for Family Resources Donation Center and Sheltering and Housing Programs. This year's theme was the 80's and the event had special guest appearances by Doc and Marty! DPD hopped Back to the Future while providing free stuffed animals to attendees while supporting this great cause!



06 SPECIAL OLYMPIC EVENTS

Davenport Police supported Iowa Special Olympians with officers participating in the Quad City Law Enforcement Torch Run. This run engages law enforcement officers worldwide championing acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities, starting first with their own communities. In addition to the Torch Run, officers participated in a variety of events to support our Iowa Special Olympians. Officers served meals at Texas Roadhouse's fundraiser and participated in Dunkin Donuts Cop on a Rooftop fundraiser with all proceeds supporting our local athletes.



07 POLICE WEEK

During National Police Week, the Davenport Police Department hosted a Memorial Service honoring the four officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty protecting the citizens of Davenport. Family members of the fallen Davenport Officers were in attendance and honored, followed by processions and grave-site memorials for each officer.

