

January 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 SIX DAVENPORT POLICE OFFICERS ATTEND FIELD TRAINING OFFICER SCHOOL

In early January, six Davenport Police Officers attended a three-day Field Training Officer School to become Davenport PD's newest Field Training Officers.

Field Training Officers provide newly hired officers with one-on-one learning and mentoring in the real-world environment. Officers learned the tools necessary to become an effective teacher and mentor to guide and provide skills to new Davenport Police Officers.



02 THREE NEW DPD OFFICERS SWORN-IN

Alexander Dunagan, Emmanuel Lopez, and Ian-Anthony Johnson were sworn in as Davenport Police Officers by Mayor Mike 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.



03 DPD COLLABORATES WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS AT MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Davenport Police Mental Health Liaison, Officer Kevin Carver, represented the City of Davenport at the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Conference and Workshop.

Using a Systems of Care approach, the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Region conducted a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) exercise to increase collaboration between institutions that serve youth and families.

This exercise brought community institutions, law enforcement, therapists, school district personnel, judges, county attorneys, juvenile court and detention officers, advocates, and other personnel together in an effort to improve access to care for youth with behavioral health and trauma-related conditions.



04 THREE FIREFIGHTERS HONORED WITH MEDAL OF VALOR

Lieutenant Jeff Pilgrim, Firefighter Cory Schaeckenbach, and Firefighter Trevor Dodson were presented with the Medal of Valor for their response to a structure fire on December 23, 2022. Each individual was recognized for their excellent decision-making and ability to execute high-level situational awareness as well as their commitment to protect and serve our community.

The Medal of Valor is presented to individuals whose actions clearly stand out while performing their duties under hazardous conditions to save the life of another. The recipients of this award receive a cross medallion and a red Valor breast bar to be worn on their departmental uniform.



“All of the personnel on scene this day should be acknowledged for their professionalism and dedication. This incident lasted for several hours, and weather conditions, rapid growth of the fire, the size of the building, and the number of occupants made this situation demanding. Rarely is a crew presented with two different, and separate, rescue situations at one incident. But the crew of Truck 3 “A” shift accepted that challenge, and was able to successfully rescue multiple people.”

- Chief Carlsten

05 PUBLIC SAFETY FEDERAL RESOURCE UPDATE

In September, a delegation of Quad City Mayors and Police Chiefs traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Iowa and Illinois Senators to advocate for federal law enforcement resources to the Quad City metro area. Since returning, staff has continued to engage with Senate staff on this request, providing further data and information on the need for additional federal law enforcement resources to combat violent gun crime in our region. In addition, the Senators from Iowa and Illinois have been engaged in continuous dialogue with the Department of Justice on these requests.

In January, senior leadership from the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Kansas City Field Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Omaha Field Office traveled to Davenport to meet with Chief Jeff Bladel and Major Jamie Brown to discuss how to enhance inter-agency efforts aimed at reducing violent crime in our community.





06 LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

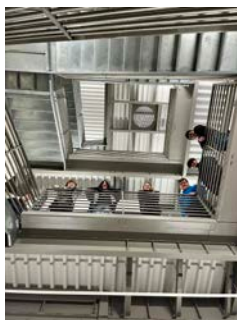
Each year, the Davenport City Council adopts legislative priorities ahead of the State of Iowa legislative session. This year, the City’s legislative priorities include automatic traffic enforcement, tax increment finance (TIF), property tax reform, building and fire code amendments, and funding for a High-Risk Unit for the 7th Judicial District. Prior to the start of the legislative session, City staff met with local state elected representatives to discuss the City’s legislative priorities and to understand the priorities of our local elected delegation.

In January, representatives from the City of Davenport, Davenport Police Department, Bettendorf Police Department, Scott County Sheriff’s Office, and the 7th Judicial District Correctional Services traveled to Des Moines at the request of Representative Gary Mohr to meet with the judiciary appropriations subcommittee chair in regards for the request for funding for a High-Risk Unit for the 7th Judicial District. High-Risk Units work closely with local law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety and prevent high-risk offenders from reoffending violently within the communities in which they reside while on probation or parole.



07 2023 DAVENPORT FIRE EXPLORER PROGRAM BEGINS

The 2023 class of the Davenport Fire Explorers program kicked off in January. Six youth from the community met at Central Fire Station for a station tour and fire extinguisher training. Over the next ten months, this hands-on program will provide training and education to those with an interest in learning more about careers in fire and emergency services. Explorers will be trained in various fire service-related topics and gain hands-on experience. They will also learn leadership and life skills that will be utilized in their everyday life.



BEST OF 2022

Our very own Daniel Sheridan, Performing Arts Supervisor with Davenport Parks and Recreation, was honored twice by River Cities Reader in their Top of 2022 recognitions.



Scenic/Lighting Design

Kristofer Eitheim and Daniel DP Sheridan, Little Women: The Musical, St. Ambrose University (Madeline). In a tale as familiar as Louisa May Alcott’s, having a stripped-down frame of a home instead of going hyper-realistic allowed the storytelling to reign supreme. Eitheim’s set was the perfect backdrop for some truly breathtaking moments, and when lit by Sheridan, it was a dream come to life.

Memorable Moment

The Astonishment, Little Women: The Musical, St. Ambrose University (Roger). A well-known 11-o’clock number soared to an even more “Astonishing” height in director Corinne Johnson’s production. Quinnie Rodman’s wonderful vocalizations, paired with Daniel DP Sheridan’s utterly stunning lighting and Kris Eitheim’s gorgeous set, created a radiance of energy that resulted in a truly breathtaking theatrical moment.

08 CITIBUS ADDS THREE BUSES TO FLEET

Davenport continues to demonstrate its commitment to improving its public transportation program and rider experience by adding three new buses to the fleet. Replacing three twenty-year-old buses, the new lower-emission high-tech buses include collision avoidance, security cameras, and an improved wheelchair restraint system. Passengers from all routes can enjoy the new ride as the buses are assigned to various routes throughout the week. FTA grant funds of \$1.4 million and local funds of \$220,000 were used to place the new buses online.



09 FLOOD UPDATES & PROJECTS

The City has been steadfast in its efforts to implement the City's 2021/2022 Flood Resilience Study components. Work to improve the City's resilience to floods will continue for several years.

Current updates:

- Phase II, clearing and repair, on Black Hawk and Walnut Creek berm repairs is in the planning stage. Work is expected to begin in the spring of 2023. Once complete, a new maintenance schedule will be implemented.
- The Union Station flood defense system project continues through the FEMA approval process.
- The City plans to resubmit an \$18M+ RAISE grant for storm sewer improvements and targeted road raises that will maintain access to River Drive through river stage 17.5 feet with little to no staff intervention/response, establish a permanent flood detour to river stage 22 feet once River Drive is closed due to flood waters, and keep access to the Centennial and Government Bridges open during flood events greater than 22 feet. After submitting the grant in 2022 and making it through several rounds, the City was informed it was not approved during that grant cycle; however, reviewers provided feedback to bolster a second submission in the spring of 2023.
- A project to perform storm sewer improvements to prevent flood waters from inundating the area of River Drive from 3rd Street to Carey Avenue and the intersection of River Drive and Marquette Street will both be released for bid in August of 2023.

As a priority separate from the resilience study, three projects to reduce flood risk at the regional Water Pollution Control Plant and neighboring Davenport Compost Facility are in varying stages. A southern berm is anticipated to begin construction early summer of 2023. As construction on the berm starts, the City expects to receive news on the status of a \$3.8M BRIC grant that will construct a northern berm. Pending a grant application, engineering and design of a third project to build a rail overpass and a new, higher-elevation access road to both facilities should begin this spring.





10 2022 INFRASTRUCTURE IN REVIEW

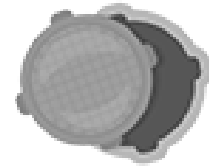
Investment in modernizing our arterial roads, neighborhood streets, and other infrastructure continued at record levels in 2022. As a priority area for growth and a vibrant future for our community, continuous improvements are being planned.

Completed Arterial and Collector Streets Projects:

- Division from Locust to 12th
- 2nd from Brady to the Government Bridge
- Lombard from Harrison to Brady
- Locust from Clark to Michigan
- Central Park from Cedar to Hickory Grove (More work slated for the intersection in 2023)
- 53rd and Eastern Intersection
- 53rd and Jersey Ridge Intersection
- 53rd from Lorton to Elmore Circle (More work slated in 2023)
- Hillendale and Research Parkway Intersection
- Hillendale and Northwest Blvd Intersection
- Northwest Blvd and 76th Intersection
- Division from Research Parkway to the I-80 Bridge



**66 Neighborhood Streets
(Contracted and In-House)**



9,228 Feet of Sewers Lined



**12 Arterial and Collector
Streets Projects**





11 GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT CELEBRATES THREE YEARS

Three years ago The Good Neighbor Project was introduced in Davenport, and no one could have expected the tremendous support and success it has received. With over 100 registered neighborhoods, GNP leaders all across our community have brought their neighborhoods together to serve the purpose of the program.

Leaders and City staff are motivated and excited to continue building awareness and expanding The Good Neighbor Project.



"It has been rewarding to witness the concepts of The Good Neighbor Project embraced by residents, resulting in safe, connected, and fun neighborhoods."
- Sgt. Andrew Harris

12 DREAM UPDATE

DREAM Round 4 is moving forward. A total of 33 homes were selected consisting of 27 current homeowners and six new homeowners. Four new homeowner awards are still available. 168 total applications were received.

Staff has been meeting with the awarded homeowners to finalize work plans. An open house took place in late January that allowed homeowners to meet area contractors interested in bidding on their project.



DREAM

Update: Round 1-4

✓ — 133
Completed

🕒 — 3
In Progress

🏆 — 35
Awarded

Total: 171





Employee Spotlight



AMANDA RANDERSON

Events, Education & Aquatics Supervisor, Parks & Recreation

Randerson recently became the first Park and Recreation professional in the Quad Cities to earn her Certified Tourism Ambassadorship™ (CTA) through a CTA class hosted by Visit Quad Cities. The Certified Tourism Ambassador program is an industry-recognized certification accredited through the Tourism Ambassador Institute® and is a multi-faceted program that increases tourism by inspiring front-line employees and volunteers to turn every visitor encounter into a positive experience. This national program has over 50,000 individuals of which there are now 72 in the Quad Cities.



BRITTANY PEACOCK

Community & Outreach Marketing Supervisor, Davenport Public Library

On January 1, Peacock was named President of the Association of Bookmobiles and Outreach Services (ABOS). ABOS is a national professional organization dedicated to providing support, education, and so much more to individuals working in the library outreach field. As President, Peacock is responsible for overseeing the growth of the organization as well as planning the annual conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania.



OFFICER LOVELADY

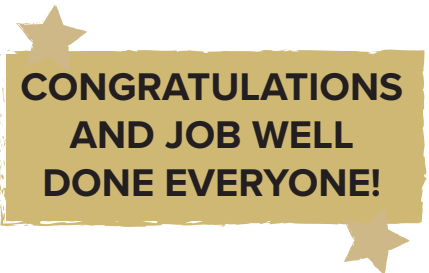
ALEX ORTEGA

Community Services Specialist

MISTY SASS-LEACH

Police Services Generalist

Way to go Officer Lovelady, Police Services Generalist Misty Sass-Leach, and Community Services Specialist Alex Ortega! A recent resident who interacted with these individuals commented that all three have been absolutely wonderful to work with, and she wishes her insurance company gave her a fraction of the amazing customer service she's received from the DPD staff. Staff has been patient, kind, and gone above and beyond to assist her. The resident said Sass-Leach has the "patience of a saint." The resident said PD doesn't get enough recognition and compliments for the great work they do so she wanted to share her thanks and gratitude.





Library Updates



01 LIBRARY CATALOG GETS A NEW LOOK

RiverShare Library online catalogs received a new look in January. Cardholders will enjoy many new features including recommendations.

Reading Recommendations compiles all the different ways that patrons can find titles to add to their list of books to read, including links to New Releases, NovelList, the sign-up page for the Recommends newsletter, Staff Picks publication, LibGuides, the BookFix service, Info Café Blog, Simply Held, and the Checked In podcast.

02 DAVENPORT LIBRARIES GO FINE FREE

In January the Davenport Public Library, along with all the libraries in the RiverShare Library System, eliminated overdue fines for items returned after the due date. The Board of Trustees also waived existing overdue fines for all Davenport Public Library patrons. This change allows the Library to further its goal of eliminating barriers to accessing the Library.



03 WINTER READING CHALLENGE

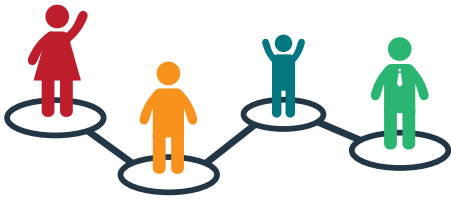
On January 31, the Library wrapped up their Winter Reading Challenge: Experience All the Feels. This year DPL surpassed the number of Winter Reading participants from previous years. The creative staff at the Library helped make this year a success by bringing new ideas on how to engage patrons.



04 FORMAL WEAR DROP-OFF

The DPL held their annual FormalWear giveaway this month, receiving the most donations ever. The giveaway was held on January 28 at Fairmount. Area teens were encouraged to browse the countless dresses, suits, and accessories to compile the perfect prom ensemble. This event was free and open to the public and could not have been successful without the many donations received.





Community Engagement

01 FIREFIGHTERS VISIT LOCAL SCHOOL

DFD visited youth at St. Paul Catholic School providing a fire safety and prevention talk. The group was given information on what the daily life of a firefighter in Davenport looks like along with being shown how firefighters may appear when responding to calls. This provides an opportunity to introduce youth on what to expect in an emergency situation so not to be afraid.



02 THE GREAT POINSETTIA GIVEAWAY

Every year during the second weekend of January, the Friends of Vander Veer host The Great Poinsettia Giveaway in the Conservatory at Vander Veer Botanical Park. This event marks the last week of the Holiday Light Display in the Conservatory and throughout the park. This year approximately 200 poinsettias were given away over two days.

03 NEW WINTER TREE IDENTITY CLASS OFFERED

Davenport Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener Program, hosted a class at Vander Veer Botanical Park teaching thirty participants how to identify a tree even in the winter when it has dropped its leaves. This collaboration is the first of several to come with environmental and conservation organizations in the Quad Cities as the department grows its Nature and Garden courses.



04 DAVENPORT PARKS AND RECREATION SEEKS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK!!**

The Nature and Garden program is growing with the hiring of Taylor Schneider, Horticulture and Environmental Educator. In an effort to better develop classes, workshops, and events for the community, Davenport Parks and Recreation publicized a survey for the community to provide feedback on preferred days and times for programs, fees, topics, age ranges, and program locations. Over 125 responses were received highlighting interests in learning about local/native plants, house plant maintenance, and local/native animals.