

November 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 SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Human Resources recently completed a seven-session supervisors' training marathon, designed specifically for the City's managers and department heads. This year's curriculum included updates on Administrative Policies, employment matters and benefits, as well as legal reminders and an overview of the job offer procedure. Risk Management presented on the newly revised online First Report of Injury and provided insights on the process, along with tips for supervisors on how to effectively complete the report. Purchasing management was on hand to present on procurement methods, purchasing protocols, and best practices.



This year's main topic, as requested by supervisors, was Developing Employees by Coaching Them. HR staff shared that organizations are moving away from traditional command-and-control practices and toward something very different: a model in which managers give support and guidance rather than instructions, and employees learn how to adapt to constantly changing environments in ways that unleash fresh energy, innovation, and commitment. The role of the manager, in short, is becoming that of a coach. Video scenarios were presented to highlight common coaching instances that supervisors may find themselves in and provided tools for navigating ways to positively and practically coach and develop employees.

## 02 GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT LEADS THE WAY

The City of Moline reached out to City staff this past summer to express their strong interest in the Davenport Good Neighbor Project. Sergeant Harris and Community Engagement Coordinator Allie McWilliams shared comprehensive information and success details regarding the Davenport initiative with Moline City staff and the Neighborhood Partnership Committee (NPC). As a testament to the influence of the GNP, Moline recently introduced its own rendition of the program called Moline Neighbors United (MNU). This emphasizes the leadership in community initiatives that resonates beyond Davenport.



## 03 RIVERFRONT SURVEY

The Riverfront Improvement Commission, in partnership with the City of Davenport, launched a riverfront community engagement survey to obtain information from residents on event preferences, such as days/times, locations, and content, along with providing an opportunity to provide event suggestions. The survey was completed by over 160 participants between the ages of 18-65+. The results will be used in the planning of the 2024 Riverfront events season.

## 04 HOLIDAY LIGHTS BRIGHTEN DAVENPORT PARKS

A community favorite, the Fejervary Holiday Lights Display, opened on Saturday, November 25 and will run through Sunday, January 8. Staff added additional lights, a new snowman figure, and more trees to brighten the light display.

At Vander Veer Botanical Park, in addition to the lighting of the Grand Allee and the giant present and snowflakes in the Rose Garden fountain, four new lighted trees were added to the stone bridge on the east side of the park. Outdoor lights were turned on November 20 while the Poinsettia and Lights Display in the Conservatory opened Saturday, November 25.



## 05 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK RIBBON CUTTING

The City of Davenport, in partnership with the Friends of Veterans Memorial Park (FOVMP), hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of Phase II in the development of Veterans Memorial Park. Over 300 veterans, community members and partners, and families were in attendance.

Phase II sought to transform the Memorial from a small circular area to a multi-faceted interactive experience. The primary goal for Phase II was the construction of the Mississippi River Overlook, with secondary goals including grading of the site for future improvements and the establishment of native prairie grass.

FOVMP contributed \$60,000 for a mural, bugler statue, and sign and partnered with the Davenport Community School District to help bring this to life. Andy Zinn, Vocational Arts Instructor at Davenport West High School, and his students designed and constructed the framing of a panoramic eight-foot by ten-foot mural honoring each branch of the military. Dave Schaffer, Art Instructor at Davenport West High School, was commissioned by the FOVMP to create and paint the mural. The students also constructed the base for the bugler statue and coordinated the footings for the signs.





## 06 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### 53rd Street

November brought the completion of the East 53rd Street Reconstruction and Widening Project closer. While full completion will occur in the first week of December, November marked four years of engineering, design, and reconstruction of two travel miles along the stretch of East 53rd Street between Brady Street and Elmore Circle.



- 4 Years – Engineering, Design and Construction
- 2 Travel Miles - 10 Lane Miles, including widening and a dedicated turning lane
- \$16.2M Investment in Infrastructure
- Expanded multi-modal transportation with the addition of 2 Miles of Multi-use Path linked to the Goose Creek Connector Trail
- 2 miles of new sidewalks
- Enhanced pedestrian crosswalks
- Improved stormwater, sanitary, water, fiber, gas, and electrical services
- 11 detention basins installed to support growth while reducing downstream impacts on the city's creeks
- Traveled by 30,000 motorists daily on average

### Locust Street

Concluding the construction season following the East 53rd Street Reconstruction and Widening Project, another consequential road project approached its conclusion in November. The complete reopening of West Locust Street, spanning between Division and Marquette Streets, is scheduled for mid-December. Although of a smaller scale, this half-mile resurfacing project will benefit the approximately 22,400 daily commuters who travel this route. Notably, numerous ADA intersection enhancements have been implemented, enhancing the pedestrian experience along this commercial corridor situated in proximity to residential areas.

## 07 VILLAGE OF EAST DAVENPORT LIGHTING

Work to replace and update the lighting in the Village of East Davenport began earlier in the month. The project will replace existing beyond-useful-life lighting with new decorative poles including electrical upgrades and colonial-style LED fixtures. In total, 84 lights will be updated. The bulk of the work is anticipated to be completed by the end of December and resume for a short time in the spring to install any remaining lights.





# 08 COMMERCIAL DREAM COMPLETE

The City of Davenport partnered with seven different local businesses in 2021 and awarded approximately \$900,000 through round two of the Commercial DREAM Project. The goal of the DREAM Project is to enhance the exterior of distressed commercial properties through the repair and rehabilitation of the façade to help revitalize the surrounding neighborhoods. All seven projects have now been completed.



All projects used local contractors as well as local sub-contractors to keep dollars in the Quad Cities.

Projects include:

- 1435 West Locust Street owned by Gravert Auto Sales LLC
- 2201 Rockingham Road owned by Jim Lykam
- 1620 Rockingham Road owned by Big Tap Productions
- 1602 Washington Street owned by Blonde Squirrel LLC
- 3030 Rockingham Road owned by Duncalf Chiropractic
- 1536 West Locust Street owned by D&K Real Estate LLC
- 1309 West 4th Street owned by Cluster Fudge Holding LLC



1309 West 4th Street: Before



1309 West 4th Street: After



2201 Rockingham Road: Before



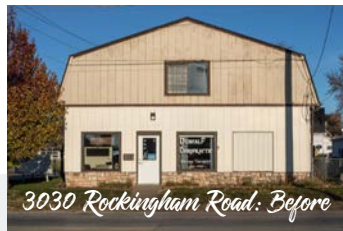
2201 Rockingham Road: After



1536 West Locust Street: Before



1536 West Locust Street: After



3030 Rockingham Road: Before



3030 Rockingham Road: After



1602 Washington Street: Before



1602 Washington Street: After



1435 West Locust Street: Before



1435 West Locust Street: After



1620 Rockingham Road: Before



1620 Rockingham Road: After

## 09 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATION WORKSHOP

The City of Davenport conducted a virtual workshop in November explaining the procedures and prerequisites for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Year 50 subrecipient application process, applicable for the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Attendance was mandatory for any agency or organization intending to submit an application. During the workshop, staff discussed federal regulations along with fiscal, programmatic, and eligibility requirements to a total of 41 participants.



As a CDBG entitlement community, Davenport annually receives an allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with this year's allocation amounting to approximately \$1.6 million. The primary objective of the CDBG program, outlined in Title I of the Housing & Community Development Act, is the advancement of viable communities by facilitating decent housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, particularly for individuals with low and moderate incomes.

Eligibility for application is extended to not-for-profit organizations (possessing 501(c)3 status) that have been operational for a minimum of one year within the City of Davenport, offering eligible programs or services for low/moderate income residents. Not-for-profit organizations situated outside the Quad Cities are eligible to apply if they provide a distinctive service for the entire Quad City area and maintain a physical presence in Davenport.



## 10 FY 2025 BUDGET UPDATE

Starting in July of 2023, the Finance team kicked off the FY 2025 budget process. The budget process occurs during the cycle of a single fiscal year. For local governments in Iowa, a fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

In October, the Finance team completed the payroll and revenue projections, and departments submitted their budget entries. Departmental budget entries allow each department to forecast future operational needs, setting the stage for departmental budget meetings which began in November. These meetings are a time for the Finance team and the individual departments/divisions to come together to review budgetary requests.

After budget meetings are complete, the Finance team will work on finalizing the City Administrator's Recommended Budget. In February of 2024, the City will host open work sessions for the elected officials, the public, and City Staff covering the FY 2025 Operational and Capital Improvement Program budgets.



## 11 SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM UPDATE

The Davenport Fire Department recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of its smoke alarm program. The first installation occurred on March 8, 2013, marking the commencement of a program that has subsequently seen the installation of over 700 smoke alarms and nearly 100 carbon monoxide alarms within our community. Through a collaborative association with the Red Cross, the DFD offers complimentary smoke alarms to Davenport residences, undertaking the installation process on behalf of each homeowner.



## 12 DFD AWARDED TWO GRANTS

A sum of \$23,000 has been awarded to DFD for the acquisition of rescue task force (RTF) equipment from the Riverboat Development Authority. This financial support will facilitate the procurement of stretchers for victim removal and ballistic personal protective equipment (PPE) including helmets and vests. These resources aim to safeguard DFD personnel during incidents involving active shooters allowing collaboration with law enforcement at such events.

Additionally, the Fire Department received a \$25,000 grant for technical rescue training from the Scott County Regional Authority. These funds will enable the engagement of external presenters to train and equip DFD personnel for adept responses to “low frequency/high risk” events, including confined space emergencies, trench collapses, or high-angle rope rescues.

## 13 DAVENPORT POLICE CRIME SCENE TECHNICIAN ATTENDS IOWA DIVISION IAI EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Crime Scene Technician Mitch Morely attended the Iowa Division of the International Association for Identification (IAI) educational conference that featured case studies and workshops on the latest technology and best practices in areas including bloodstain documentation, child abduction scenes and investigations, and the Midwest Innocence Project. The conference provided the opportunity for first and last responders to work together to discuss the latest standards and professional developments in forensics. This will help keep Davenport up to date on cutting edge evidence practices and contribute to the agency’s violent crime reduction strategies.



## 14 DAVENPORT POLICE HOST NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION TRAINING

Three DPD Officers received their Public Order Basic Command certification after the department hosted a 40-hour multi-agency course. This course, taught by the National Tactical Officers Association, focused on leadership, professionalism, risk mitigation, de-escalation tactics, decision making and policy, crowd management theories, legal and operational considerations, and use of force as it relates to public order. The course allowed for law enforcement from throughout the Midwest to strengthen interagency relationships and cooperation during large incidents.



## 15 DAVENPORT POLICE OFFICER BECOMES CERTIFIED AS A DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT

Over the last two months, Corporal Luke Figie attended a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) certification course. This intensive course allowed Corporal Figie to become a nationally certified officer specially trained to recognize drivers under the influence of drugs in addition to alcohol. Training consisted of over 80 hours of classroom instruction and 100 hours of both in and out of state field certification training. The was followed by a series of several written examinations, at least 15 supervised evaluations in four separate drug categories, and a final proficiency examination. Through this training, Corporal Figie became one of only 116 certified Drug Recognition Experts in the State of Iowa.



## 16 TWO DAVENPORT POLICE OFFICERS ATTEND BASIC SWAT SCHOOL

The Police Department added two new members to the Emergency Services Team. Corporal Nicholas Mark and Officer Michael Catton attended a week-long Basic SWAT certification course through the Mobile Team Training Unit in Illinois. Through this multi-agency training, officers received hands on and classroom training learning skills including emergency medical response, civil rights training, use of force and de-escalation techniques, use of force law updates and safety techniques including cover, concealment, and time.







# Employee Spotlight

## OUR INCREDIBLE CREWS

A big thank you, to the incredible Parks and Recreation Riverfront Crew and Maintenance Staff. The Riverfront Crews hard work to ensure the vibrancy of riverfront park spaces is truly appreciated. They work in all weather and always have a smile on their faces! The City is thankful to have this group of dedicated people as part of the team!

The Maintenance Crews worked quickly to winterize parks this year. Their dedication to year-round efforts in maintaining parks ensures that the community can enjoy these spaces regardless of the season. Thank you for all you do to make Davenport's outdoor areas welcoming and enjoyable for everyone!



*Maintenance Crew from left to right:  
Ryan Morales, Mark McCubbin, and  
Dale Crisp.*



*Riverfront Crew from left to right:  
Dan Malnar, Randy Welch, Ray  
Neels, Ron Welch, Steven Fox, John  
Lange.*

*Not pictured: Scott Helmich, Gene Butler, Lawrence Johnson, Mike Wallace, Randy Rutledge, Kelli Mathias, Dave Finch, and Carol Wine*



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR DEDICATION!**



## Project Highlights:

### **Library Social Worker |**

The Library Social Worker has assisted 761 people between July 1, 2023 and September 30, 2023. A total of 3,031 individuals have been served as a result of this position. Significant progress was made this quarter in helping several longtime patrons experiencing homelessness by securing employment and housing.

### **1000 Books before Kindergarten |**

The 1000 Books before Kindergarten Program is half-way through its third year! As of September 2023, the program had 1,677 participants. The Library has maintained its push for continual community engagement and new registrations by creating the 1000 Books before Kindergarten Book Club, and implementing two monthly drawings in which patrons can win a picture book.



## Planning & Development

### **Creating Places**

Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn |

The developmental design construction package has been received. The next phase is to start the construction documentation where Sasaki and City staff will start developing working drawings and set a final estimate of construction costs. The project team has been working on value engineering exercises to ensure the project will stay on budget

Cork Hill, Van Buren, and Herrington Multi-Sport Courts |

The Multi-Sport Courts project is currently out to bid with a closing date of November 28, 2023. It is anticipated the project will be sent to City Council for a recommended award in December 2023

Emeis Adaptive and Inclusive Playground | Proposals are currently being evaluated by City Staff. Once the design has been chosen, the selected play equipment will be incorporated into the site plan

Cork Hill Splashpad | All equipment has been purchased for the Cork Hill Splashpad. It is anticipated that this project will go out to bid in December 2023

### **West Locust Sewer Connectivity**

Duck Creek Sewer | The Duck Creek Sewer project is currently out to bid with a closing date of November 17, 2023. It is anticipated the project will be sent to City Council for a recommended award in December 2023

### **Multi-Modal Connectivity**

Multi-Modal | N/S Path | Final plans are completed and the majority of the property acquisition activities are anticipated to conclude in December 2023. It is anticipated for this project to go out for bid in January 2024

### **Flood Mitigation**

Flood Mitigation Stage 22 | This project is currently out to bid with a closing date of November 21, 2023. Construction is anticipated to start during the first quarter of 2024



## Construction

### **Neighborhood Reinvestment**

DREAMPlus | Forty-seven projects have now been awarded, with 31 already complete or with work underway

### **Library Enhancements**

Fairmount Community Center | Construction has begun and is expected to conclude in the Spring of 2024

### **Creating Places**

Dohse Splashpad | The contract has been finalized and a pre-construction meeting was held on November 9, 2023. Construction activities on site have officially commenced. Parks and Recreation staff have been busy removing unsuitable fill from the pre-existing pool, and are anticipating full site mobilization in late November 2023



## Completed

### **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

Public Wi-Fi Hot Spots

### **Library Enhancements**

Hiring of Library Social Worker

Launch of Pre-K Literacy Initiative

### **Creating Places | Neighborhood Parks-Play**

Whalen Playground | June 2023

Harbor Road Playground | December 2022

Lafayette Playground | December 2022

Emeis Ninja Warrior Playground | June 2023

### **Neighborhood Reinvestment**

Regional Transitional Housing

# ARPA Expenditures | FY24

As of September 30, 2023, the City has expended 15.88% of its \$40,896,926 SLFRF. The majority of expenditures for the quarter are attributed to architecture and engineering services, and salaries to administer the ARPA program, as well as project delivery.

Project	FY24	Project	Amount	% Used
	Jul-Sep	Grand Total	Allocated	
ARPA Program Administration	\$ 66,784	\$ 373,408	\$ 1,050,000	35.56%
Neighborhood Stabilization (DREAM+)	346,092	940,495	2,000,000	47.02%
Displacement Assistance Program	6,000	488,301	600,000	81.38%
Coordinated Assessment Program (CAP)	49,387	330,080	1,000,000	33.01%
Group Violence Intervention	-	428,206	750,000	57.09%
Library Social Worker	21,018	174,664	273,700	63.82%
Pre-K Literacy Initiative	18,010	154,404	373,500	41.34%
Fairmount Library Community Center	95,276	327,116	3,600,000	9.09%
Neighborhood Parks   Play	5,313	515,786	2,500,000	20.63%
MLK Plaza	-	321,205	500,000	64.24%
MSL   Adventure Play & Event Lawn	83,013	467,200	6,000,000	7.79%
Public WiFi Hotspots	-	56,450	87,041	64.85%
Flood Mitigation   River Drive	3,903	324,558	4,000,000	8.11%
Multi-Modal - N/S Path	39,250	365,725	4,000,000	9.14%
Duck Creek Sewer Extension	5,768	1,225,712	14,000,000	8.76%
Unallocated SLFRF			162,685	
	<b>\$ 739,813</b>	<b>\$ 6,493,310</b>	<b>\$ 40,896,926</b>	<b>15.88%</b>



# Library Updates

## 01 ENHANCED CHILDREN'S AREA INSTALLATION

After months of fundraising and design work, Library staff and community members celebrated the opening of the Enhanced Children's Areas of the Davenport Public Library at Eastern and Fairmount. The installation of these areas served as phase one of the project, with phase two being the installation of the Enhanced Children's Area at Main (expected late 2024).

The new learning spaces will ignite children's imaginations and allow them to engage in different activities that support the fundamentals of emergent and early literacy: talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. There are letters and words, gears, song lyrics, varying textures, and many other pieces perfect for hands-on play. Early literacy is critical for lifelong learning and success in school. Access to these free educational spots will give children a strong start in early literacy to ensure they are ready for kindergarten and beyond.

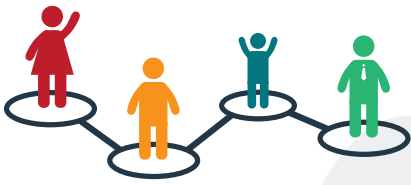
The Library partnered with the Burgeon Group as the artist on these interactive art installations.



## 02 DINOVENBER

Last month was a patron favorite: Dinovember! This program is led by the DPL Youth Services team where dino toys and stuffies spend a couple of weeks hanging out with Library staff processing books, answering phones, leading story times, and more. The team enjoyed posting on The Library's social media to update followers on what the dinos were up to. Staff even got a tiny construction outfit for one lucky dino to help with the Enhanced Children's Area installation. Dinosaurs wrote postcards letting their owner know about all the fun stuff they did (and how many books they devoured).





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 01 FESTIVAL OF TREES PARADE

To kick off the holiday season, over 20 staff members (representing nine departments), along with family and friends, represented the City at the annual Quad City Arts Festival of Trees Parade, and the weather could not have been any better for mid-November. Bright sunshine and mild temperatures brought thousands to Downtown for the largest helium balloon parade in the Midwest. The City's balloon this year was Shrek, everyone's favorite ogre, followed by a Davenport Fire Department truck and a Public Works solid waste truck.



## 02 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Leading up to Small Business Saturday, hosts of The Davenport Pulse podcast partnered up with Becca Nicke and Red Perez of Abernathy's, a vintage boutique located in downtown Davenport, to help bring awareness to supporting local. The two owners gave insight into their business, what products are offered at Abernathy's, how they made this dream a reality at such a young age, and what they did to celebrate their recent 10-year anniversary.

## 03 SAU COFFEE WITH A COP EVENT

St. Ambrose University students, staff, and DPD gathered at the library on campus for SAU's very first Coffee with a Cop event. A total of 40 attendees enjoyed free coffee, donuts, and conversation. The continued success of this event is due to the contributions made by local law enforcement who dedicate their time to citizens.



## 04 ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH CLEAN UP

Good Neighbor Project members met at St. Paul Lutheran Church for the final “Make-It-Yours Litter Pickup” event of the year. The hour-long cleanup initiative extended across St. Paul Lutheran Church and its vicinity with the participation of twenty dedicated volunteers.

## 05 LETTERS TO THE NORTH POLE KICKS OFF

Parks and Recreation has brought back Letters to the North Pole for the 2023 holiday season. Families from around the Quad Cities can drop off letters at three locations in Davenport between November 25 and December 15 to receive a response from “Santa’s helpers” the week of December 18.



## 06 NATURE AND GARDEN CLASSES

Parks and Recreation staff hosted three Nature and Garden programs: Coffee & Cuttings, Winter Tree ID, and Let’s Talk Turkey. Coffee and Cuttings is a community favorite and each month a different plant is chosen; November’s plant was rosemary. Participants learned about the culinary and medicinal properties of the herb while sipping coffee donated by Main Street Coffee and propagating rosemary to take home for their own growing and use. The Winter Tree ID class was hosted at Vander Veer Botanical Park and covered how to utilize buds, bark, and tree shape to identify common trees found around the Quad Cities. The final program, Let’s Talk Turkey, focused on the history and evolution of turkeys, a bird that was almost named the National Bird, and how it became so entrenched in the fall holiday season. Nahant Marsh Education Center loaned turkey wings and parts for easy visual references.



## 07 DAVENPORT POLICE ASSOCIATION EMPOWERING ABILITIES THANKSGIVING DINNER

Officers, professional staff, retirees, and volunteers from the DPD provided and served lunch to over 200 clients and staff at Empowering Abilities, formerly known as the Handicap Development Center (HDC). Clients are always excited to share this experience and continue friendships through this event that has occurred for over 30 years.

