



THE CITY OF
DAVENPORT
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City Administrator Monthly Update

January 2024



Well-Protected Community

Seven Davenport Police Officers Attend Field Training Officer School

In early January, seven Davenport Police Officers attended a three-day Field Training Officer School becoming 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 learn the tools necessary to become effective teachers, coaches, and mentors to guide new Davenport Police Officers and provide skills so that they can serve and protect our community.

DFD Recruit Academy Begins

The next DFD Recruit Academy is officially underway! For the next eight weeks, these five firefighters will dive into a dynamic program featuring both classroom learning and hands-on skill-building. Let's cheer them on as they blaze their trail to serve the community.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Flood Resilience Study Update

January brought the start of another high-priority flood resilience project identified in the 2021 Flood Resilience Study. The ARPA-funded project will prevent backflow from the Mississippi River into the storm sewer by installing gate valves and improving the storm sewer system in the River Drive area between 3rd Street and Tremont Avenue. Once complete, the updates will keep East River Drive near 3rd and 4th Streets open until the seawall is overtopped at Stage 22.5 ft, five feet higher than without the project. Work will begin in River Heritage Park and transition to River Drive with minor lane reductions in early spring.

A second high-priority project at Marquette Street and River Drive will follow sometime in late winter/early spring. This project will also make storm sewer and valve improvements that prevent backflow from the Mississippi River into the storm sewer system. Once this project is complete, the City can keep the intersection open without staff intervention or pumping through stage 18.5 ft.

The City continues to seek funding through US DOT grant applications for various storm sewer improvements and minor road raises along 3rd and 4th Streets as a flood mitigation project with transportation benefits. Additional information about the project can be found at:

www.davenportiowa.com/news/what_s_new/davenport_flood_resilience_study_implementation.

Outside the study, the City continues to work toward completing Phase 1, 2, and 3 improvements to defend the regional Water Pollution Control Plant and neighboring Davenport Compost Facility from the Mississippi River during high river stages. The Phase 1 berm and pumping improvements are currently in the permitting process. Phase 2 remains on hold for funding and a contract for Phase 3 engineering to improve access to the facility during river stages greater than 21 ft was awarded in January.

Railroad Bridge at 13th

In 2018, the East 13th Street Railroad Overpass Bridge between Mound and Kuehl and the Elm Street Bridge was closed due to structural integrity concerns for vehicles and pedestrians. After a year of negotiations with Canadian Pacific Rail (CP), CP transferred ownership of the bridges to the City and provided a limited amount of seed money toward structural repair. Two years later, the City secured grants for the Elm Street Bridge rehabilitation, but not the lower traffic volume bridge at East 13th St.

A few hurdles later, the day is now here. Following a DOT grant award of \$1.5 million, the City can now work toward restoring the East 13th Street Railroad Overpass Bridge. The project will begin with design this winter. Construction will follow once plans have been completed and all permits have been approved.



Fiscal Vitality

North Park Mall Consultant Group

In August 2023, City Council awarded a contract for the NorthPark Mall Retail Market Analysis and Strategy Recommendation to Leland Consulting Group of Portland, Oregon. Since then, City staff have been working closely with Leland Consulting Group as they progress through their market study. In December, Leland Consulting Group came to Davenport to meet with key stakeholders and tour NorthPark Mall and surrounding areas. Leland Consulting Group is planning another site visit in the upcoming months for additional stakeholder meetings including interviews with various members of the City Council. The information gathered from these site visits will assist them in recommending potential development opportunities for this area. It is anticipated Leland Consulting Group will present their findings in the Spring of 2024.

Audit

Eide Bailly LLP has released its comprehensive audit report on the financial status of the City of Davenport for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The findings underscore the City's strong financial position, with notable highlights detailed below:

Financial highlights include the City's revenues totaled \$247,926,024 for the year ending June 30, 2023, a 9 percent increase from 2022. Expenses for the year ended June 30, 2023 totaled \$200,944,990, an 8 percent increase from the prior year.

Audit Findings

Eide Bailly LLP did not report any findings related to the financial statements. The City Council has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the City's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity.

"The positive financial outcomes emphasize our commitment to strong fiscal management. Our budget priorities do and will continue to reflect what our citizens ask of us. We are dedicated to providing transparent and responsible governance, ensuring the continued prosperity of the City of Davenport", said Mayor Mike Matson.

A copy of the audit report is available for review at City Hall and on the Auditor of State's website at: www.auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports.





DavenportU Citizens Academy

DavenportU Citizens Academy is back! Those interested in learning more about their local government can apply for the 10-week program aimed at giving Davenport residents a behind-the-scenes look with a variety of hands-on experiences, presentations, tours, and more.

Monday sessions run from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. beginning with an introduction to city government, and conclude with graduation at a City Council meeting. We are excited to welcome participants to the 8th DavenportU Citizens Academy Spring Cohort. Applications are being accepted now through February 23, 2024.



DFD Explorer Program Kicks Off

The 2024 class of the Davenport Fire Explorers kicked off their program in mid-January. Several new faces and a few Explorers from 2023 met at Central Fire Station for a station tour and fire extinguisher training. Over the next ten months, the Explorers will receive education related to 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.



Parks Seasonal Hiring

The new year marks the beginning of the hiring season for Davenport Parks and Recreation. Staff has spent the winter submitting requests for seasonal/part time positions, discussing recruitment strategies, scheduling hiring event dates, and reaching out to former employees. Since the start of the year, the department has received over 40 applications for positions across the Park Operations, Recreation, and Golf Divisions. Open interview events will continue through April.

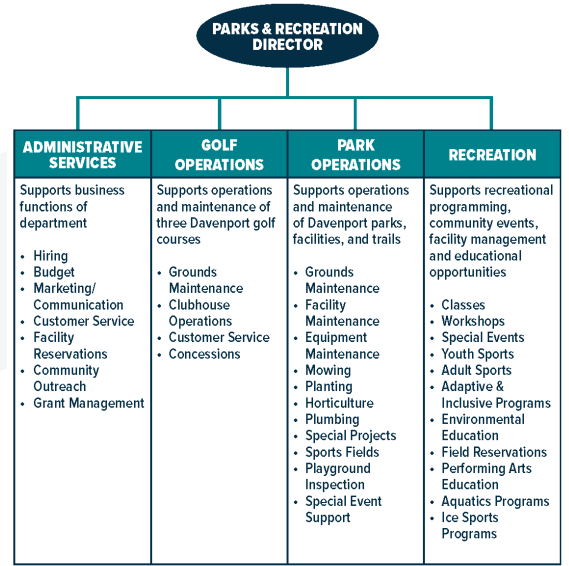
Park Operations, Horticulture and Golf Operations/Maintenance Divisions will host open interviews at the **Red Hawk Golf Course Thursdays, February 15 and March 7 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

The Recreation Division, which includes Aquatics, camps, youth sports, and The River's Edge facility, will host events at **The River's Edge Wednesday, March 6 and March 20 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, March 13 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, April 6 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**



Parks and Recreation Department Re-Organization

In response to the retirement of several long-tenured employees, Davenport Parks and Recreation Director Chad Dyson, in collaboration with the Finance and Human Resources Departments, developed a restructuring of the Parks and Recreation Department. The goals of the reorganization are to clarify a succession plan within each division, expand on operational efficiencies, and realign tasks and responsibilities among staff particularly at the management level. Among the changes was the moving of The River's Edge facility and programming to the Recreation division; development of a new division, Administrative Services; transition of the AmeriCorps program and grant management to the Administrative Services Division; increased full-time positions in the Park Operations Division; and the promotion of William Fisher to Senior Manager – Park Operations after Betsy Tubbs's retirement.



Davenport Junior Theatre Hosts Community Information and Input Meeting

Staff from Davenport Junior Theatre and the Parks and Recreation Department hosted an information meeting on Saturday, January 27 at the Annie Wittenmyer Complex on finding a new location for Junior Theatre. The meeting's first hour focused on updating the community and giving an overview of Davenport Junior Theatre's history followed by an input session where attendees were asked to provide feedback on possible options the department is exploring. Over 150 attended the meeting and participated in the preferencing exercise. During the second hour, attendees were invited to take a tour of the current facility to get a better understanding of the space used for the many camps, theatre and dance classes, and performances. There are plans for future information and input meetings.





GNP Celebrate Year Four

January 15 marked the four-year anniversary of The Good Neighbor Project in Davenport. In 2023, GNP reached a total of 119 registered neighborhoods made up of traditional neighborhoods, nonprofits, churches, and more. City staff and Davenport Police enjoy attending meetings, block parties, and cleanups throughout the year while watching GNP leaders bring their neighborhoods closer together through continued efforts of creating safe, connected, fun, and motivated groups.

“The success of this program is something we are extremely proud of and share with our community,” said Community Engagement Coordinator Allie McWilliams. “Many thanks to our GNP leaders who have made this project what it is today, and to Mayor, Council, and City staff for their continued support.”

We look forward to watching GNP grow for years to come. Those interested in becoming a part of The Good Neighbor Project can learn more by visiting: davenportiowa.com/GNP.



Employee Spotlight



Owen Farrell

DPD Public Safety Communications & Logistics Manager

In early January, Davenport Police Department Public Safety Communications and Logistics Manager Owen Farrell attended a week-long FBI-LEEDA Media and Public Relations Course hosted by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. This training brought together 21 law enforcement executives and public information officers from across five states. Through lectures, simulated crisis exercises, on camera interviews, and briefings, attendees learned best practices and utilized peer experiences and knowledge to enhance their skills in crisis communication, professional communications, image, branding, perception, media relations, and social media.

Development in Davenport

At the heart of the Quad Cities, Davenport's unique metropolitan lifestyle with hometown feel is the place to be, as evidenced by private investment in the City. Here's a look at the growth in our City over the past two years, with significant investment in 2022 with the addition of Amazon.

Development in Davenport: *A two year overview*

	2022		2023	
	Permits	Valuation	Permits	Valuation
New Single Family	160	\$29,228,097	94	\$20,279,282
New Multi-Family Buildings	0	\$0.00	1	\$6,563,117
New Commercial & Industrial	22	\$124,072,216	22	\$38,779,155
Residential Remodels	690	\$11,563,988	754	\$15,271,571.61
Commercial & Industrial Remodels	146	\$51,132,906	168	\$52,125,461.15



ARPA Updates



Proud
ARPA
Project

Featured Project Highlight: Emeis Adaptive & Inclusive Playground

A Request for Proposals was issued on October 9, 2023 for play equipment design and purchase services for a new inclusive playground amenity at Emeis Park. A selection committee consisting of City Staff from various departments evaluated the submitted proposals. The renderings from the top three proposals were shared with Adaptive and Inclusive community partners who were able to provide input and preferencing. A high response rate was received from our community partners, and the renderings from Play Pro Recreation was ranked the highest.



On January 24, 2024, Davenport City Council awarded the Emeis Adaptive & Inclusive Playground to Play Pro Recreation. City staff will begin to coordinate with the vendor and amend project plans and specifications to accommodate the proposed equipment. Next steps will involve issuing a bid for the site work and installation of the playground equipment.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn** | A revised plan set is underway which will confirm the budget and allow Sasaki and City Staff to proceed in the development of construction documents.
- **Cork Hill, Van Buren, & Herrington Multi-Sport Courts** | A pre-construction meeting was held on January 11, 2024. A construction groundbreaking is schedule to commence in April 2024 with construction anticipated to begin during Spring 2024.
- **Cork Hill Splashpad** | Davenport City Council approved the plans, specifications and form of contract on January 24, 2024. The project is currently out to bid with a bid opening scheduled for February 2, 2024.
- **Duck Creek Sewer** | A preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for January 31, 2024 between City staff, the engineering design consultant, and Valley Construction to discuss project details and an initial construction schedule. Preliminary tree clearing for the project is anticipated to begin in mid-February.
- **Multi-Modal N/S Path** | Final plans are completed and the majority of the property acquisition activities are anticipated to conclude in the upcoming months.
- **Flood Mitigation Stage 22** | Construction began on January 8, 2024. The first phase of this project will be mostly contained in the areas of River Heritage Park, with construction activities moving into E. River Drive sometime in February.
- **Fairmount Community Center** | Construction has begun and is expected to conclude in the Spring of 2024.
- **DREAMPlus** | Forty-seven projects have now been awarded, with 35 already complete or with work underway.
- **Dohse Splashpad** | Splash equipment was delivered on January 15, 2024, and Play equipment is currently in fabrication. Site construction will continue as weather allows.
- Launch of Coordinated Assessment Program (CAP).
- Launch of Group Violence Intervention (GVI).
- MLK Plaza: \$500,00 commitment awarded by City Council.
- Public Wi-Fi Hot Spots
- Hiring of Library Social Worker
- Launch of Pre-K Literacy Initiative
- Whalen Playground
- Harbor Road Playground
- Lafayette Playground
- Emeis Ninja Warrior Playground
- Regional Transitional Housing

PROJECT PROGRESS



- Flood Mitigation Stage 22
 - Multi-Modal N/S Path
 - Cork Hill Splashpad
- Duck Creek Sewer
 - Emeis Adaptive & Inclusive Playground
- Cork Hill, Van Buren, & Herrington Multi-Sport Court
- Main Street Landing
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 - Emeis Ninja Warrior Playground



Warm Up Wednesday at The Library

As we all know from living in the Midwest, winter temperatures can be brutal. With this in mind, Library staff asked themselves how they could better serve their patrons when temperatures drop. The Library already offers free computer access, and a cozy place to check out and read books, but what could make things better? What about offering complimentary coffee and hot cocoa to patrons? Thus, Warm Up Wednesday at the Davenport Public Library was born! Starting in November of 2023, this initiative has been offered every Wednesday at the Main Library and has since served over 350 patrons.

Read to a Dog

One of The Library’s most adorable programs, Read to a Dog, encourages young readers to read to a furry audience. QC CAN’s Reading Assistance Dogs are specially trained, along with their handler, to provide the environment needed to help improve reading and communication skills in children while encouraging them to develop a lifelong love of reading. This program has proven to be so popular that The Library now hosts two monthly sessions, giving over 50 readers a month the opportunity to improve their skills.



R.E.A.D.
Reading Education Alliance of Dogs



Davenport Public Library Annual Reading Challenge: Decades

A great way to kickstart a year full of reading is by joining The Library’s annual Online Reading Challenge. This year marks the ninth year of creating reading recommendations with the Library’s super-casual, low-stress reading club. For each month in 2024, Library staff will travel to a different decade and highlight a main title set in that decade. Besides the main title, staff will offer suggestions for books set in the same decade and many more on display at each building. Patrons can choose to read the main book, alternate titles, or something else! The Library’s goal with this program is to encourage the community to read diverse and entertaining titles without the formality traditional book clubs may bring.





Community Engagement

Corridor Cleanup

Davenport announced its annual Corridor Cleanup will happen on Saturday, March 23. The cleanup is a community-wide event focused on removing litter deposited along Davenport's gateways by snow and strong winter winds. Litter hurts our waterways and our community's image. Keeping litter off the land and out of our creeks is one of the single most important things that can be done to protect our water, wildlife, and environment, and it takes everyone to accomplish this. Find details about the cleanup at www.davenportiowa.com/cc.

The River's Edge Hosts Regional Tournament for Tri-State Hockey League

The River's Edge, with the newly installed second ice rink, played host to the Bantam Select Tournament Friday-Sunday, January 26-28. Teams from the Mid-West Amateur Hockey Association's (MWAHA) Tri-State League competed on both ice rinks over the three-day competition. Nine teams traveled to Davenport from multiple cities in Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa for the tournament. Winning the MWAHA Silver Championship was a local team, the Quad City Hockey Association's Bantam Select. This tournament is the first major regional event hosted at The River's Edge.



Miracle at the Freight House

During the months of November and December, the City welcomed "Miracle at the Freight House" to the riverfront for its third year of operation. "Miracle" is a Christmas-themed pop-up bar that serves holiday cocktails and mocktails in a festive setting. The original concept for Miracle was born in New York City ten years ago; today, around 200 Miracle locations can be found all over the US, as well as Canada, Europe, Asia, and Central America.

Miracle at the Freight House was the first Miracle location in the state of Iowa, originally opening in 2020. After taking last season off, Miracle operated for seven weeks out of the Freight House, offering a large drink menu and snacks, including fresh from the oven Chex Mix. The festive ambiance and S'Elfie Station were crowd pleasers, as were the large Christmas inflatables just outside the front door.

Scott County Special Olympics Basketball Players Host Special Olympics Rock Island Rockets

Players from the Scott County Special Olympics adults basketball team hosted the Illinois Special Olympics Rock Island Rockets basketball team for a friendly game on January 11 at the St. Mark Lutheran Church Gymnasium. The RI Rockets team is a newly developed basketball team for Illinois Special Olympics. The game was in the spirit of comradery, fun, and skill building. The teams have a wide variety of players with varying skill levels and ages (14+). For the Scott County team, this was also in preparation for the Spring Classic state competition in March. After the game, the Scott County Skills and 3v3 teams practiced. Future games and practice sessions are planned.

