



CITY OF DAVENPORT
CITY ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY UPDATE
February **2022**



Employee Spotlight

WELCOME JEFF COLLINS

New DAVENPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Davenport Public Library is pleased to welcome Jeff Collins to the Davenport Public Library family. Collins began his new role as Director on February 16, 2022 and the staff is excited to have him on the team.

Jeff Collins is an experienced library administrator who provides trustworthy leadership with integrity. He has proven success in increasing efficiencies and enhancing customer service to advance an organization's mission. His mission is to inspire and facilitate positive change.



WELCOMING NEIGHBORHOODS

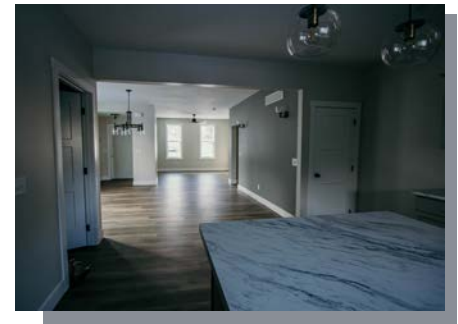
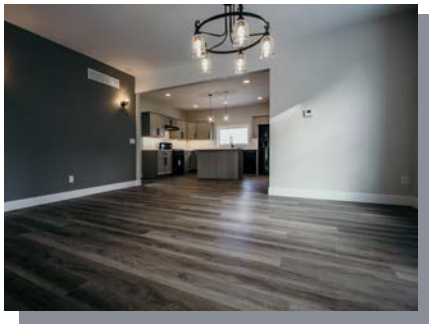


URBAN HOMESTEAD UPDATE

The City listed the latest home in the Urban Homestead Program for sale in early February. Located at 637 Oak Street the two-story home is 1,287 square feet with three bedrooms and one full and one-half baths. The sale price is \$138,000, and applicants must have a minimum income of \$31,500.

The application period was open February 1 – February 28 and 14 applications were received. City staff held two open houses for the public to tour the home.

The City has recently acquired another home and rehab is expected to begin this spring.





DAVENPORT POLICE UPDATES

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

The Davenport Police Department received 71 qualified applicants for the position of Police Officer during the most recent recruitment. All qualified applicants were invited to participate in the physical ability test, of which 29 either chose not to schedule the test, did not appear for the scheduled test, or withdrew from the process. During the physical testing, nine applicants failed to meet the state required physical standards.

After completion of the physical testing, seventeen individuals took the POST written exam with six individuals not passing. Twelve applicants advanced to the background check phase of the process. Civil Service list certification for the position of Police Officer is expected on March 9, 2022. Another Police Officer recruitment cycle is expected this spring.

PROMOTIONAL PROCESS

The internal application period for the promotional process for the ranks of Corporal and Sergeant was held October 5 – 31. Written examinations, an assessment center, and final interviews were held during the month of January. Both the Corporal and Sergeant Civil Service lists were certified on February 9. Ten Officers were placed on the Corporal promotional list and six Corporals were placed on the Sergeant promotional list.

The applications for the promotional process of Lieutenant opened on February 11 and closed on February 27. The testing components will occur the week of March 28 and the Civil Service list certification is scheduled for April 13. The promotional process for Captain opened on January 31 and closed on February 8. The testing components will occur on March 7 and list certification is expected on March 9.

RETENTION COMMITTEE

The Davenport Police Retention Committee was created late in 2021. The group is identifying actionable items and brainstorming ideas on how to retain talented DPD personnel. Members of various ranks and assignments were selected to serve on the committee as well as Human Resources Director Alison Fleming and Assistant City Administrator Mallory Merritt.

The Retention Committee has focused on looking at new and innovative ways to address staff concerns including:

- **Call Prioritization:** Changes went into effect on January 1, 2022 to direct citizens to online reporting options where possible, resulting in a decrease in calls for service for officers. The Chief and Senior Command staff worked with City Administration, City Council, and SECC to move forward with this initiative and will continue to do so to refine the process.
- **PD Renovations:** Updates to furniture, technology, equipment, and aesthetics are underway in the computer training room, report writing room, and gym.
- **Total Wellness:** Human Resources develop an informational flyer on total wellness benefits (physical and mental health) available to employees and their families. Beginning on February 1, 2022, a new virtual counseling benefit was made available through Teladoc.
- **Special Events:** An evaluation of special events and its impact on staffing is on the City Administrator's Workplan for 2022.
- **Exit Interviews:** Information and feedback from exit interviews is being evaluated to identify additional areas for improvement.
- **Promotional Processes:** Feedback was provided by the committee, as well as other sworn personnel, on improving the promotional processes. Human Resources has updated the testing processes for the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain.



MLK PLAZA CONTRIBUTION

In partnership with the Friends of MLK, the City of Davenport has committed \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to contribute to the building of a new park that will honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. MLK Park will be located at 501 Brady Street.

The park was designed in collaboration with Streamline Architects and revealed at a press conference in January.

Staff is coordinating with representatives from the Friends of Martin Luther King, Inc. to formalize a construction timeline and other components needed to transform this highly visible location into a cultural interpretive center.

The tentative groundbreaking date is set for April 2022 with the opening in summer 2022. The Friends of MLK said 50 percent of the construction funds have been raised to date.



DIGITAL NEWSLETTER LAUNCH

City Communications announced the launch of Davenport's digital newsletter The Pulse. Residents can stay connected with their local government through this new digital newsletter, delivered directly to their inbox the first and third Tuesday of each month. The newsletter will provide residents with brief and informative articles about City services, programs, and projects.

The digital newsletter is part of a communication initiative staff recently launched which provides several ways citizens can connect to their local government including a podcast and digital newsletter.



PARKS MASTER PLAN

At the February Park Advisory Board meeting, Confluence presented the final draft of the Parks Master Plan, highlighting major themes and recommendations. Advisory board members were able to ask clarifying questions and provide feedback. The Parks Master Plan was accepted by the board and will now move on to City Council for review in April.

AGENDA

- Opening Remarks
- General Project Update
- Summary of Edits/Changes
- Questions
- Closing/Acceptance



FLOOD OUTLOOK

City staff participated in the first two of three flood outlook briefings by the National Weather Service in February. The outlook during the second briefing suggested probabilities currently range from a 25 to 50% chance of exceeding moderate flood stage of 16 FT and 10 to 25% probability for exceeding 18 FT mid-April to early May. Staff looks to learn more on March 10, when weather partners issue their last spring flood outlook in the series.

While the forecast is leaning toward minor inconvenience, City staff is preparing for all conditions that might arise. Volatile weather patterns could produce more snow/rain to the north in the coming weeks, and as always, chances are dependent on the rate of snowmelt (rapid or slow).

Work to improve the City's flood response, implementing actions identified in the recently completed Flood Resilience Study, is underway as funding is available. Activities coming up include improvements to the berm along Black Hawk and Walnut Creeks in southwest Davenport and storm sewer improvements along River Dr from 3rd to Federal Streets. In addition, the City is in the early stages of selecting an engineering firm to install a berm at the Water Pollution Control Plant and improve pumping operations.

CREDIT RATINGS REAFFIRMED

The City of Davenport's credit ratings AA (S&P Global) and Aa3 (Moody's) were reaffirmed ahead of the 2022A bond issuance. These financial indicators are useful for assessing the City's financial position. These ratings signify that the City's capacity to meet its financial commitment on bond obligations is very strong. Positive credit ratings result in lower borrowing costs and increases Davenport's ability to save money on financing, resulting in more available funds to spend directly on capital projects such as street improvements.

S&P Global Ratings assigned a stable outlook for Davenport as a result of the City's ability to successfully maintain very strong finances, and the City's compliance with its reserve and liquidity policies. Moody's also emphasized several credit strengths: the large and stable tax base of the City, strong operating reserves, and liquidity relative to its adopted budget. These ratings demonstrate that Davenport has a very strong capacity to meet its financial obligations.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE

City staff has been actively working with local state delegation on a variety of legislative bills and topics that impact the City of Davenport. Staff have been actively involved in moving the public safety nuisance bill forward. The bill, which would allow cities to utilize the local courts to remedy public safety nuisance issues at alcohol establishments, passed out of the House public safety committee and is eligible for floor debate. In addition, staff has been advocating for the funding of a High Risk Unit for the 7th Judicial District Department of Correctional Services and a bill that would fund Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy through the Iowa Medicaid Program.

HIGH-PERFORMING
GOVERNMENT



ELECTRIC BUSES

The City of Davenport is hopeful to begin adding electric buses to the CitiBus fleet soon. A grant has been submitted, and in late January, Davenport hosted a battery-powered, zero emission electric bus tour. The tour was an opportunity for CitiBus Transit staff and area stakeholders to check the equipment out in preparation for the possible move toward a lower emission fleet.

As part of the grant application, Transit staff petitioned local stakeholders for support, potential monetary donations, and grants. MidAmerican Energy Company is the first agency to commit funds if the City has a successful grant award this spring.

The cost of adding four electric buses to the fleet is estimated at \$5.3M. With \$4.5M in requested grant funds and Mid-American Energy Company's \$160,000 contribution, the City estimates \$675,000 in CIP funding will be needed for the grant match.



CODE ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION

Development and Neighborhood Services Department (DNSD) is pursuing department accreditation through the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE). This program evaluates code enforcement agencies to determine if standards are maintained in a variety of criteria, including facilities, tools and equipment, training, licensing, and processes for inspections, complaints, and quality control. The accreditation is intended to ensure uniform levels of professionalism and service. Those earning the accreditation are considered among the best code enforcement agencies across the nation.

DNSD plans to submit the application for accreditation by June 1, 2022.

Community Engagement

GLOE KINDERGARTEN WORKSHOP SERIES AT DAVENPORT JUNIOR THEATRE

Davenport Community Schools partnered with the Davenport Junior Theatre (DJT) program to bring every kindergarten student to DJT for a 90-minute workshop series. Using the story of *The Three Little Pigs*, students rotated through experiences in acting, costumes, scenic design, props, lighting, and more. All activities were taught to grade level and ended with the DJT staff tying together all concepts by performing *The Three Little Pigs* at the end of the workshop. This Kindergarten fieldtrip fulfills the Grade Level Outreach Experience (GLOE) for the district. In total, 1,052 students participated in this workshop series that ran Monday, February 7 through Thursday, February 17.



ST. AMBROSE MUSEUM STUDIES

On Thursday, February 17th, the Library and Parks and Recreation were invited to present to St. Ambrose Museum Studies students about their departments and to promote any internships or future employment opportunities. Staff interacted with students, faculty, and other area organizations to showcase the many talents of current employees in hopes of inspiring young people to apply for positions and grow within the City of Davenport.



GINGERBREAD VILLAGE BATTLE

At the February Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, students from the Assumption High School Art Department accepted their Gingerbread House Trophy as the winning high school in Vander Veer's Winter Theme Battle of the High Schools! Over 1,000 votes were cast in person at the Vander Veer Conservatory and digitally via Facebook.

Multiple Quad Cities area high schools designed and built the gingerbread houses displayed at the Vander Veer Conservatory over the winter.

