



# CITY OF DAVENPORT

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY UPDATE

*April* 2022



THE CITY OF  
**DAVENPORT**  
IOWA | USA



# GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

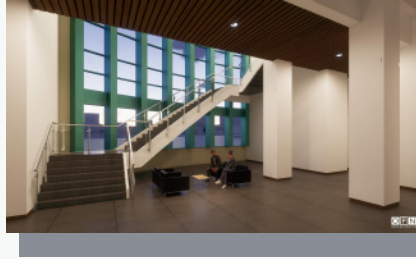
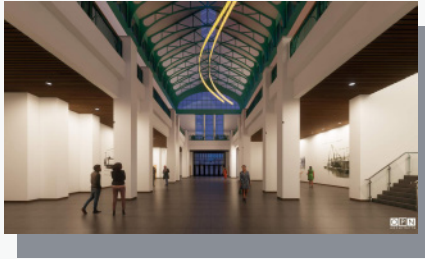
HIGH-PERFORMING  
GOVERNMENT



City staff has submitted a number of requests for funding in recent months:

## » RiverCenter Convention Center Recovery and Adler Theatre Ventilation Upgrade

An application for the Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation funding opportunity through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) was submitted in February. The request of \$6.5M would be added to a City match of \$1.6M to install mechanical and aesthetic upgrades to bring the facilities up to modern standards. If awarded, the funds from this grant would be used to replace the air handler unit at the Adler Theatre and renovate common areas at the event center. These improvements will help create a safe, appealing, versatile venue to set the RiverCenter up for success in the coming decades.



FISCAL  
VITALITY



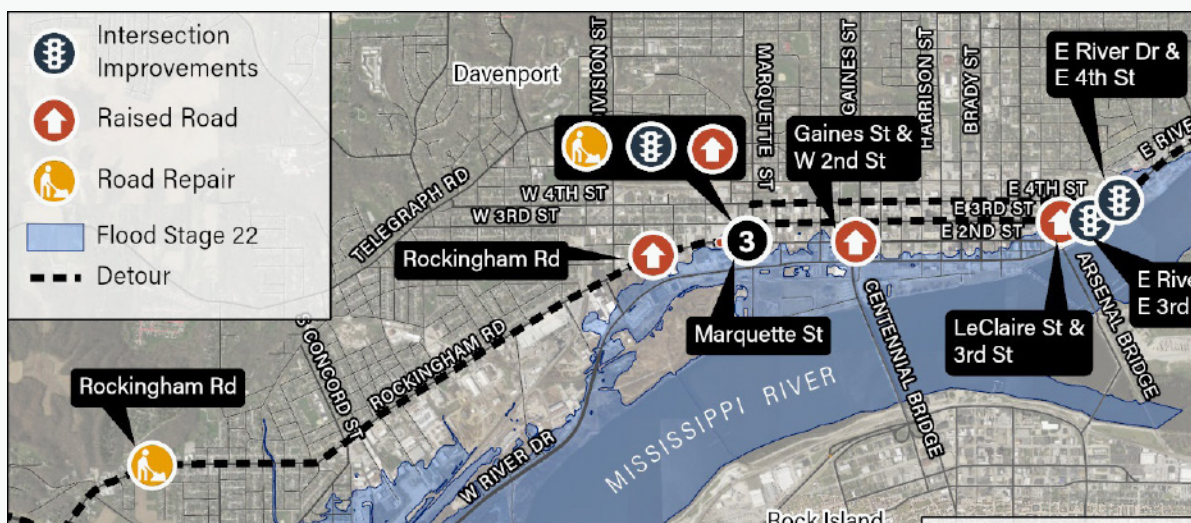
## » HazMat Rig Replacement

A Community Project Funding request was submitted to representative Miller-Meeks in April requesting \$1.1M to purchase a new HazMat response vehicle for use by Davenport Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team. The proposed vehicle will replace the existing trailer with a new apparatus. The benefits to the City include continued operations and expanded response capability, a vehicle that meets the latest industry standards, and lower maintenance costs. If funded, the new rig could be delivered 12-15 months after order placement.

## » Flood Resiliency Improvements

An application for the RAISE grant through the Department of Transportation was also submitted in April. This \$13.5M grant would fund several flood mitigation projects aligned with the City's Mississippi River Flood Resiliency Plan to minimize disruption to transportation and commerce during flood events. The goals of the project are to:

- Keep River Drive open to stage 17.5, just under major flood stage.
- Establish a permanent flood detour via 3rd & 4th Streets during major floods.
- Ensure inter-state travel access by raising road surfaces to the Centennial and Arsenal bridges.



## » Electric Buses and Bus Facilities

The Transit Division will submit an application this spring for the Federal Transit Administration's combined Low-No Emission Grant and Bus & Bus Facilities Grant Programs. Davenport is seeking funding for four electric buses, the charging infrastructure to power them, and funds for training staff on proper operation and maintenance of the buses. The buses would generate no emissions and reduce levels of noise, resulting in cleaner air and quieter service as well as a lower overall cost of ownership. Davenport is partnering with MidAmerican Energy for the local match and is pursuing opportunities for other partner organizations to contribute to the local match as well.

# VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY PLANNING SESSION

WELL-PROTECTED  
COMMUNITY



Site visits from representatives associated with the Davenport Police Department's Public Safety Partnership and Strategies for Policing Innovation initiatives were held in late March and early April. The purpose of these visits included a Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Assessment, and IDEA Analytics working with police personnel and the Scott Emergency Communications Center on Crime Analysis implementation and Group Violence Intervention (GVI) integration. A preliminary Violent Crime Reduction Strategy (VCRS) work session was held to discuss the City's strategy for implementation and coordination of these initiatives. Additional implementation meetings are planned with key department and City personnel.

## DAVENPORT POLICE RECRUITMENT AND NEW HIRE UPDATE

On May 3, 2022, four recently hired Police Officer Recruits, Riley McIntyre, Omar Alcala, Mark Rappel, and Zachary Morgan started the 16-week basic law enforcement training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). Following their training at the state academy, these officers will return to the Davenport Police Department for their post-academy training before entering the Field Training Officer Program.

Daniel Hylton, Ryan Welzenbach, Michael Hogan, Marcus Terry, and Steven Anderson graduated from ILEA in April. These officers returned to the Davenport Police Department and began their post-academy training prior to entering the Field Training Officer Program.



Four Probationary Police Officers, Benjamin Betsworth, Joshua Bender, Eric Long, and Mason Laud, are in the final stages of the Field Officer Training Program. Upon completion, these officers will "go solo" serving the Davenport community within the Patrol Division.

The Davenport Police Department concluded the spring recruitment process in mid-April and is currently in the applicant background check phase of this hiring process. A Civil Service list is expected to be certified in mid-June.

## DPD HOSTS GUNS AND GANGS TRAINING

The Davenport Police Department hosted over 30 personnel from regional law enforcement agencies for a two-day course aimed at providing both new and seasoned law enforcement officers, investigators, prosecutors, and supervisors with information and techniques on how to make solid cases on illegal firearms. This Guns and Gangs course taught the importance of proper case documentation, investigation, and follow-up utilizing available investigative tools and practices, and working with prosecutors towards successful prosecution.

## DAVENPORT FIRE HOSTS THE ART OF READING SMOKE CLASS

The Davenport Fire Department hosted *The Art of Reading Smoke* class with over 150 firefighters and fire officials in attendance from over 20 agencies. Reading smoke allows firefighters to recognize where the fire has been and where the fire wants to progress. Characteristics like intensity, volume, and color can be used to assign resources and mitigate the situation. Training like this allows all involved to provide the best service to their community and keep their citizens safe.

## DAVENPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW RECRUIT CLASS STARTS

The next generation of firefighters for the Davenport Fire Department walked through the doors of Central Fire Station in April. The new hires are taking part in the 8-week DFD Recruit Academy. At the conclusion of their training the probationary firefighters will be assigned to a shift and rig.





## WELCOMING NEIGHBORHOODS



# CDBG WEEK TOUR

In honor of CDBG Week, elected officials, media, and staff had the opportunity to tour completed federally funded projects as part of National Community Development Week. Representatives were in attendance from Senator Joni Ernst's and Senator Chuck Grassley's offices and were joined by Alderman Gripp.

The tour highlighted the impact of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Funds in Davenport. Featured stops included Total Cluster Fudge, which received assistance through the Commercial DREAM Project for exterior renovations, as well as neighborhood revitalization and economic stabilization projects through Urban Homestead, DREAM, and accessibility and ramp assistance recipients.

During the tour, information and discussion also included COVID-19 funding for small businesses; homeless, rental, and mortgage assistance; and youth social and educational programs.



# RIVERFRONT REFRESH

The 2nd annual Riverfront Refresh was a major success. Over 100 volunteers collected 75 bags of trash and debris along Davenport's riverfront. Additionally, fresh mulch was placed in areas around the Freight House and painting of the railing along the LeClaire Park riverwalk was completed.

Several local businesses and groups volunteered including Riverfront Improvement Commissioners, Mayor Matson and City Council members, a group from MidAmerican Energy, members of the Jaycees of the Quad Cities, students from Davenport West High School, Xstream Cleanup, City staff, and citizens from all over Davenport!

# LIBRARY UPDATES

The Library waived \$465.90 of patron late fees during the April 11-23 fine forgiveness program!!

The Community Outreach Department along with the Youth Services and Programming Department worked closely with the Davenport Community School District to issue every DCSCD first grader a Davenport Public Library Card. The OWL was able to visit McKinley, Hoover, Eisenhower, Walcott, Buchanan, Jackson, Jefferson, Adams, Buffalo, and Truman in April interacting with 514 students. Students were able to enjoy a craft, story time, history on their school, and book checkouts at the OWL. The team will be visiting the rest of the schools at the end of May.

### New Seed Library!

The Davenport Public Library Seed Library opened on April 19 and is stocked with a wide assortment of heirloom vegetable, herb, and flower seeds all available for free. Families can select up to five varieties per month.



**WELL-PROTECTED  
COMMUNITY**



## DPD HOSTS LEAP CLASS

A Davenport Landlord Education Assistance Program (LEAP) class was held in April. The class is a partnership between law enforcement and rental property managers to help tenants, owners, and managers keep drugs and illegal activities out of rental properties to encourage safe, stable, and welcoming neighborhood environments throughout our community. Information was presented on property management and nuisance abatements, the City's Good Neighbor Project, assisted housing programs, fire safety and code, Davenport Municipal Code, civil rights, the eviction process, and gang and drug awareness information.



## DPD ACCREDITATION VISIT FROM CALEA

In 2003, the Davenport Police Department became the Quad Cities' first accredited law enforcement agency. The Davenport Police Department is seeking its sixth reaccreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

In mid-April, a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) assessed and examined all aspects of the department including administration, operations, investigations, and support services. As a part of the accreditation process, agency employees and members of the community met with assessors to offer comments directly to the assessment team.

Verification by the assessment team that the Davenport Police Department meets the Commission's stringent, state-of-the-art standards exemplifying the best practices in law enforcement is part of a voluntary process to gain reaccreditation. The results of this most recent assessment are expected to be released by the Commission later in the year.

## PARKS MASTER PLAN



The Comprehensive Park Master Plan has been finalized and accepted as of April 27, 2022. The Plan will act as a guide for the next 5 to 10 years for Davenport Parks and Recreation staff in assessing repairs, replacement, and installation of park amenities and facilities. It will also aid in the evaluation of recreation programs and community events.

## ALERT IOWA SUBSCRIBERS

	OCTOBER 2021	APRIL 2022
VOLUNTEER	1189	1744
PARKS SPECIAL EVENTS	1346	1978
RIVER FLOOD 18FT+	1844	2841
CONSTRUCTION	1957	2928
SNOW EMERGENCY	2255	3583







# Employee Spotlight

## CAPTAIN GREG BEHNING



The Davenport Police Department is excited to announce the promotion of Lieutenant Greg Behning to the rank of Captain. Behning, a Davenport native and 27-year-veteran of the department, comes from a family of law enforcement. He has served in every division of the department including all three patrol shifts, the TOB-Gang Unit, TOB-Street Crimes Unit, Quad City Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG), Training Unit, NETS Unit, and as the Internal Affairs Officer. In addition, Behning spent 22 years on the department's Emergency Services Team before retiring from the team as the Commander. Behning has served in Senegal and Afghanistan as a Tactical Commander Instructor for the U.S. State Department's Anti-Terrorism Program, instructing senior members of national organizations tasked with terrorist incident response. During his tenure in Davenport, Behning has been heavily involved in the department's training especially in the areas of officer safety, use of force, firearms, and tactical operations, and is currently a departmental Fair and Impartial Policing Instructor. Behning routinely works with community partners planning for large-scale events, creating safe, stable, and welcoming environments for event attendees in



Davenport. Drawing upon his own experience and collaborating with prosecutors, law enforcement executives, and union leaders, Behning developed the department's Public Safety Statement establishing a balance between critical information and an officer's personal rights during use of force investigations. Behning played an integral role in improving procedures for the agencies asset forfeiture process as well as advocating for and oversight of the integration of a newly created Gun Investigation Unit with the Narcotics Unit, increasing operational effectiveness. Throughout his career, Captain Behning has received numerous awards and commendations including a commendation bar, two excellent duty awards, five unit citation awards, several good conduct bars, numerous letters of commendation, and the 2012 and 2020 American Legion Post 26 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards. During the civil unrest events of June 1, 2020, Behning exhibited heroism, gallantry, bravery, and selflessness while at risk of his own life, protecting and saving the lives of his fellow officers while engaged in armed combat in Davenport. For this, Behning received a combat bar and was awarded the Davenport Police Department's highest award, the Medal of Honor, marking him as the highest decorated officer in department history. Outside of his professional career, Captain Behning and his wife are mentors in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Congratulations, Captain Behning!

## ICMA HIGH PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

Tegan Trees, Management Analyst I in City Administration; Nicole Gleason, Assistant City Administrator and Public Works Director; and Gil Proehl, Davenport Police Lieutenant, graduated from the High Performance Leadership Academy through International City Managers Association. This 12-week online program provided best practices in leadership, organizational development and change management, negotiations and collaboration, effective business communications, and how to deliver increased value from high performance management.



## DAVENPORT FIRE RETIREE

After 28 years of serving the Davenport community, Captain Metzger celebrated his retirement. He was hired in 1994 and moved up the ranks while being involved in HazMat, mechanical duties, and working on specifications for new apparatus. While most of his career was spent downtown at Central Station, his last years on shift were spent in the west end at Station 5.



# Community Engagement

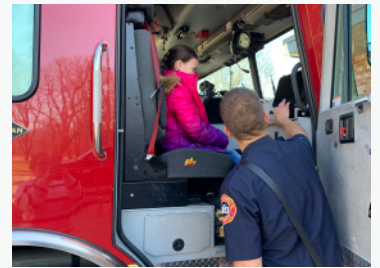
## JIM HASLEY 1ST TEE RENAMING DEDICATION

On Thursday, April 21, Mayor Matson, Parks and Recreation staff, and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members attended a renaming dedication event at Red Hawk Golf & Learning Center. First Tee of the Quad Cities renamed the classroom at Red Hawk to the Jim Hasley First Tee Learning Center in honor of Jim Hasley, a Golf Professional, who dedicated 56 years to the Davenport golf community and young learners. The event was attended by Hasley family members, former students, and friends.



## DAVENPORT FIRE HOST STATION OPEN HOUSE

The Davenport Fire Department began its 140th year celebration this month with the Station 3 Open House. The hour and a half events, which will take place on the second Saturday of each through October, will give the community a chance to talk with firefighters, learn about the Davenport Fire Department, and tour the stations.



## PARKS HOSTS SPRING FORMAL

The annual Spring Formal took place on Sunday, April 24 at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds' Starlight Ballroom. This adaptive and inclusive event, in partnership with Bettendorf Parks and Recreation, is the social event of the year for persons with disabilities. The 150 attendees, dressed in their finest ballroom attire, were able to dance, enjoy a hosted dinner, and take formal photos.



## PUBLIC WORKS HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR CAREER DAY

Nearly 150 Davenport Community School District high school students and teachers visited Public Works for a Career Exploration at the end of April. The fast-paced event had students learning more about a variety of career fields directly from staff: automotive, forestry, GIS, construction inspection, facility maintenance, equipment operation (from garbage packers to plows and excavators and other heavy equipment), stormwater and natural resources, traffic control including signs and signals, emergency management, and more.

Staff shared their skills, rewards, and challenges; pride in serving the community; and valuable career tips and life lessons, like being responsible, reliable, and making good choices now.





# Community Engagement

## PARKS HOSTS LEARN TO SKATE SPRING SHOW

Over 50 participants in the Davenport Parks and Recreation Learn to Skate program performed on Sunday, April 24 as part of the Spring Show. This season's theme was Happiest Place on Ice. Each skate level performed as a group for family and friends in the stands at The River's Edge.



## DAVENPORT FIRE SCHOOL TALKS

Throughout the month of April the Davenport Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau presented to Davenport Community School District classrooms in an effort to deter fire setting among area youth. There was also conversation on career paths, daily life of a Davenport firefighter, and fire safety.



## HAMS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Personnel from the Davenport Police and Fire Departments partnered with Hy-Vee's Ham for the Holidays giveaway ahead of the Easter weekend. Officers and firefighters took the opportunity to help distribute 500 hams to community members.



## QTR 1 GNP MEETING

The Good Neighbor Project held its 1st Quarter meeting featuring guest speaker Becca Niles, Community Outreach & Experience Supervisor with Parks and Recreation. Discussion topics included upcoming park projects to look forward to this summer, ARPA funds and projects in Davenport, and how residents can advocate for their local parks.

## TEXAS ROADHOUSE FUNDRAISER

Davenport Police Officers and Scott County law enforcement agencies partnered with Texas Roadhouse for the annual Tip-A-Cop luncheon fundraiser raising \$3,687.45 to help support Special Olympians in Iowa.

## COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

The City of Davenport hosted the first annual Community Egg Hunt at Vander Veer Botanical Park on Saturday, April 9. City employees were thrilled at the turnout with over 1,000 people in attendance. A total of three hunts were set up for children to participate turning in their eggs for prizes at the Library's OWL.



## PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Davenport Police partnered with Every Child (formerly the Child Abuse Council) to host the planting of a blue pinwheel garden in front of the police station. The blue pinwheel is a symbol of the healthy, happy, and full childhood all children deserve. Throughout the region, child abuse agencies and their local partners planted pinwheel gardens that remained on display through the month of April. These gardens show the community that children are our future and that law enforcement and city officials support child abuse prevention.

