



CITY OF DAVENPORT

CITY ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2022



THE CITY OF
DAVENPORT
IOWA | USA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & GOVERNOR SIGNING



City staff worked closely with our state delegation to advance several key priorities during the 2022 legislative session. City staff began work with legislators last summer, advocating for several priorities across the public safety continuum. These priorities included the passage of a public safety nuisance bill, as well as state funding for multi-systemic therapy for at risk individuals in our community.



The public safety nuisance bill was passed by both the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Reynolds in Davenport on June 9. This bill allows cities to pursue an abatement process through the local court system for alcohol establishments where a demonstrated public safety nuisance has occurred.

City staff also worked with our local delegation to defeat proposed legislation in the Governor’s housing omnibus bill that would have preempted cities from adopting their own building and fire codes and instead created a state-wide building and fire code. In the end, this language was stripped from the bill, allowing cities to adopt their own building and fire codes.



GRASSLEY ROUNDTABLE



United States Senator Chuck Grassley hosted a law enforcement round table and panel discussion at the Davenport Police Department on June 1. Davenport Police Chief Paul Sikorski was joined by law enforcement leaders from throughout eastern Iowa to discuss the challenges that departments and officers are facing in modern policing and how they are working to overcome those.





9TH COHORT GRADUATION DAVENPORT STRENGTHS INSTITUTE

Participants in the 9th cohort of Davenport Strengths Institute (DSI) graduated in June after completing the 12-month leadership program. Participants included Ryan Hanghian, Fire; Sgt. Andrew Waggoner, Sgt. Tim Murphy, Celia Porth, Detective Robert Farra, and Detective Evan Obert from the Police Department; Robert Danielson and Jessica McKowen from Water Pollution Control; Tom Leabhart, Hilary Belz, and Robin Dunn from Public Works; Tim Stephens from Parks and Recreation; Brittany Peacock and Leslie Ross from the Library; Amanda Street from Risk Management; Jolly Omar, previous Management Analyst; Alison Fleming, HR Director; and Brad Carter from Community & Economic Development.

Cohort 10 is currently underway, and cohort 11 will begin in July with another 20 City staff members ready to embark on this leadership journey. Applications for future cohorts will be accepted this fall. To date, over 160 full-time employees representing 11 different City departments have either graduated or are completing the program.



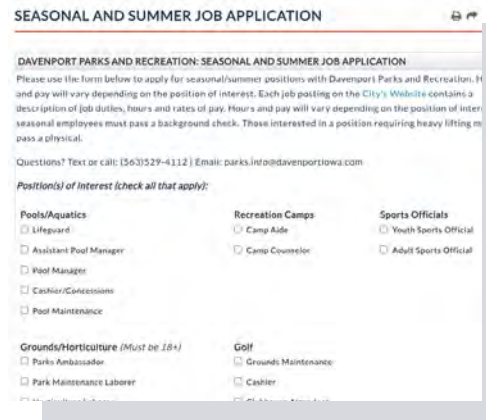
CONGRATULATIONS!

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

As the labor market becomes increasingly competitive, the City continues to work diligently to attract applicants for seasonal, part-time, and full-time, positions. In collaboration with City departments, Human Resources has pursued a variety of creative methods to recruit new employees such as:

Such as...

- Social media campaigns highlighting a diverse group of employees and what they enjoy about their careers
- Working cooperatively the NAACP and LULAC for recruitment ideas
- Partnering with the NAACP on outreach to local high school students
- Attended local job fairs
- Performing outreach to the Arsenal, Ft. Bragg, Ft. Leonard Wood, Fort Campbell and local National Guard units
- Meeting with service members at Iowa Works who are transitioning out of the military
- Creating bus wraps highlighting opportunities in Transit highlighting current employees
- Simplifying the job application for seasonal employees
- Creating bookmarks for distribution at the library and postcards for the front desks at City Hall and Public Works; posted banners in parks
- Coordinating lunchroom visits at high schools and contacted athletic directors, coaches and teachers to help spread the word
- Providing gift card incentives to seasonal employees in Aquatics and Camps that were catered to the demographic
- Enhancing the website and created flyers to provide information on benefits and departments highlights
- Partnering with NAACP and LULAC to hold applicant workshops with the goal of educating diverse members of the public on career opportunities
- Attending virtual and in-person college visits
- Rebranding job titles to better reflect responsibilities and more clearly market the position.



JOIN OUR TEAM!



CAPRA ACCREDITATION VIRTUAL REVIEW VISIT FOR PARKS & RECREATION

During the week of June 13-17, Davenport Parks and Recreation staff hosted a virtual, week-long review visit with three industry professionals from Colorado, Arizona, and Wisconsin as part of the CAPRA Agency Accreditation process. The visit included document and evidence reviews, virtual meetings, and a two-hour virtual tour of park spaces that make Davenport unique. These spaces included Vander Veer Conservatory, Gabe's All-Inclusive Play Village, Davenport Junior Theatre, Main Street Landing and LeClaire Park, the Riverfront, and Credit Island Park. This accreditation review was the culminating experience of the review year. Final determinations and recertification will be announced in September as part of the National Parks and Recreation Association's annual conference held in Phoenix, Arizona.



..... HIGH-PERFORMING GOVERNMENT

FIRE STATION 3 - UPDATE

On June 7, the City successfully received bids for the construction of the new Fire Station 3. City Council approved the construction contract with Tricon General Construction in the amount of \$10,784,000 at the June 22 Council Meeting. Staff expects the project to begin in early fall with an estimated completion date in late 2023.



..... WELL-PROTECTED COMMUNITY

BEHIND LANDING *FAIR OAKS FOODS*



Fair Oaks Foods is planning to construct a state-of-the-art food production facility in Davenport. The \$134 million investment includes a 150,000 square-foot facility in the Eastern Iowa Industrial Center and will create an estimated 247 new full-time jobs. The company plans to begin operations in early 2024.

The City's economic development team of Susanne Knutsen and Tom Linehan, collaborated across a wide range of City departments to showcase Davenport's readiness to work with manufacturing companies looking to call the QC home. In this case, City staff first met with Fair Oaks Foods in July of 2021. Representatives from Fair Oaks Foods and their site consultant Brandon Talbert, with Austin Consulting, sat down with staff from engineering, planning, water pollution control, building, fire and economic development to review land development option and potential locations on why Davenport should be the home of their Fair Oaks Foods expansion.

Following a successful initial visit, the company returned in August to visit Davenport with Michael L. Thompson, President and CEO. This was a smaller group visit to get an overall feel of the community and see if Davenport was a good culture fit that embraced many of the same values of Fair Oaks Foods.

The QC Chamber and City staff collaborated on a unique business attraction video to keep Davenport top of mind. This video was sent to both the business and site selector in early September.

Due to economic conditions outside the company's control, the project selection process took a hiatus until early 2022. At this point in time, staff knew that Fair Oaks Foods was considering at least one other location outside of Iowa as a potential site. During this period, City and Chamber staff met with local experts in the agricultural field to learn more about the pork industry and why Iowa was top for a bacon plant. Iowa ranks #1 in the nation for pork production and supplies 1/3 of the nation's hog production.

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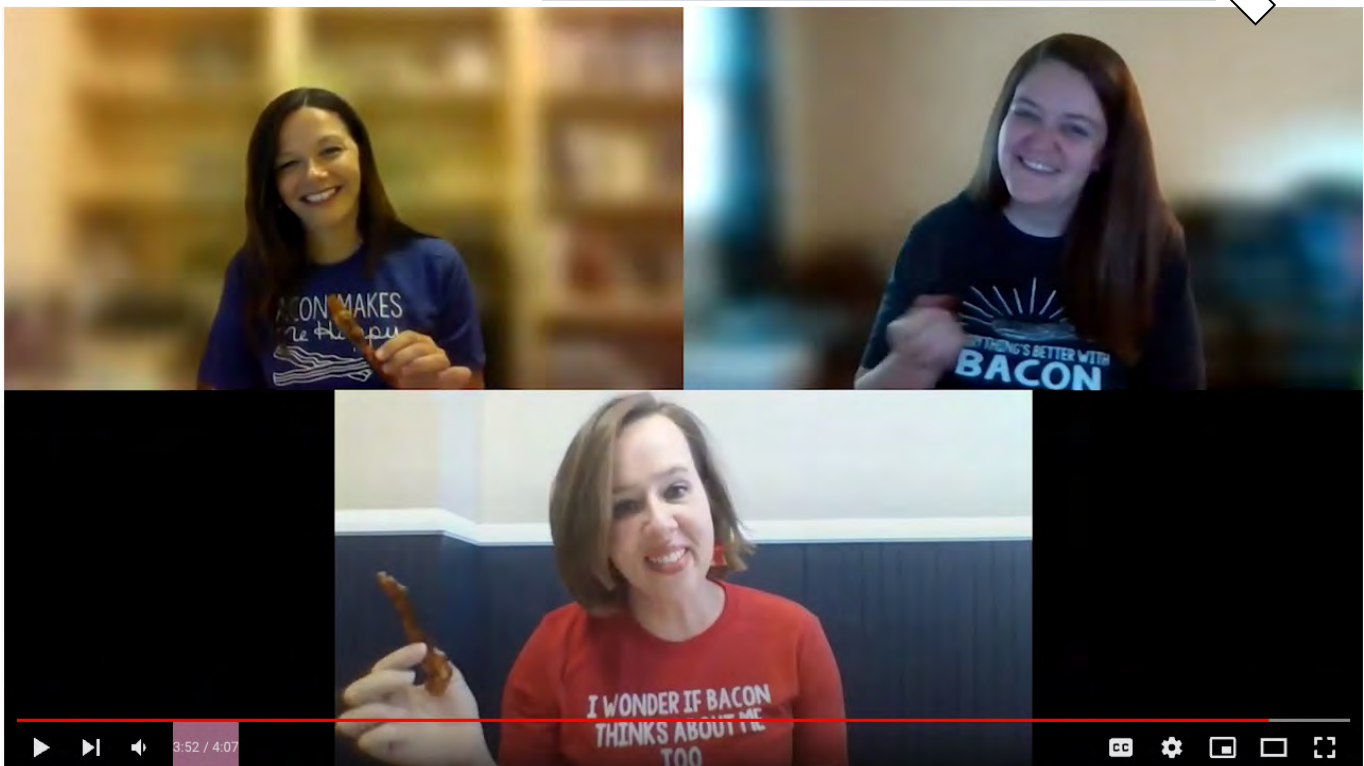


Following multiple conversations in early spring with both the company and site selector, City staff met once again with Fair Oaks Foods engineering and design contractors to begin the laying out the framework of the plant within the Eastern Iowa Industrial Center.

This meeting and others along the way ultimately signaled to Davenport that Fair Oaks Foods had embraced Davenport and made the decision to choose Iowa as their location of choice. The decision was based on several factors including the QC's highly-skilled workforce, close proximity of suppliers, securing a certified site with room for expansion, and the region's close-knit community and culture.

Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2022 on a 32-acre site near Interstate 80. This development is expected to have an annual economic impact of \$182 million, making it the largest business attraction project in the region's history.

Click to watch!





THE DAVENPORT DREAM

WELCOMING
NEIGHBORHOODS



PROJECT UPDATE

Community and Economic Development staff has been busy making DREAM(s) come true for area residents.

In spite of ongoing labor and supply shortages, the Davenport DREAM Project surges on. All Round 1 projects are complete, Round 2 has 42 out of 44 projects complete or close to completion, and Round 3 projects have begun, with 11 out of 45 projects complete and several currently in progress.

The Round 4 application process recently closed with 174 applications being received.

Using ARPA funding, the extension program DREAM Plus is currently a major focus with the goal of providing recommendations to City Administration by early/mid-July.



Welcome Home, Martin Family!



Amber and her children were recipients in the City's latest round of the Urban Homestead Program and are now proud homeowners. Martin is extremely grateful for the opportunity and said:

“The Urban Homestead Program has allowed me to become a homeowner of a beautiful home.”



DAVENPORT JUNIOR THEATRE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS



Davenport Junior Theatre (DJT) turns 70 years old in 2022 and invited the community to celebrate. The team at Davenport Parks and Recreation and non-profit partner Junior Theatre, Incorporated hosted a grand celebration at DJT on the Annie Wittenmyer Campus.



The event took place in two acts, a picnic celebration and dinner on the grand lawn. The Picnic Celebration was free for the community to attend with a ribbon cutting for the new DJT museum. The Dinner Celebration included a show, catered dinner on the lawn, guest speakers including Tony Award winning producer and DJT alum Brett Batterson, and an after party.



The musical production of “Imagine That” played on the Mainstage that weekend for families to see free of charge.



MAKER SPACE Studio 321

Studio 321 is now available to the public at the Davenport Public Library. This new space provides the community an opportunity to be creative using resources they may not have at home. Products available for use include sewing machines, a Cricut, a button machine, and more. This space was made possible by funds raised for the renovation of the Main Branch and by a dedicated and resourceful staff.



RIVERFRONT PROGRAMMING 2022

The Davenport riverfront has been full of fun for the whole family. Over 20 free events took place in 5 different venues in the month of June, bringing over 15,000 citizens weekly to the riverfront. Riverpalooza, a new concert series held every Thursday in Quinlan Court, showed its popularity with over 400 residents attending the first night. Movies on the Mississippi, QC Empowerment Network Open Air Market, and Music on the River all returned with great success along the Freight House Farmers' Market, a riverfront staple. Staff has created a relationship with several local food vendors providing opportunities to attend multiple events each week.

The first riverboat docking of the 2022 season brought over 150 guests to Davenport. Passengers enjoy attractions such as The Figge, the Putnam Museum, Freight House Farmers' Market, and the Skybridge as well as local restaurants and shops. There will be over 30 more stops in the 2022 season.



5 venues, 20+ events during the month of June





DEAMBUIR CARTER

Group Violence Intervention Coordinator

DeAmbuir Carter was recently hired as the Group Violence Intervention Coordinator. Carter obtained a B.S. in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration from Western Illinois University. Carter is passionate about making a difference in the community, where she is a native. Having 11 years of experience in corrections with the 7th Judicial District Department of Correctional Services as an intern, residential officer, and a probation/parole officer, Carter desires to help restore a sense of peace in the community as well as

keep individuals safe, alive, and out of prison.

Carter is excited to be a part of the GVI strategy, grateful to have a great team to implement the strategy, and has faith that many will join the strategy, ultimately putting the guns down. Furthermore, DeAmbuir emphasizes that gun violence must stop, and it will take the community as a collective to make a change



FATHER PAUL CHAPLAIN

Father Paul Appel retired in June from the Public Safety Chaplain program which he has been with since it began in 2015. His participation has been instrumental to the success of the program and his devotion to the employees and the citizens of Davenport is unparalleled. While pastoring two local parishes, Chaplain Appel still found the time to serve,

often holding office hours at the Police and Fire Departments on his days off. He has done numerous ride-a-longs, participated as a role player during in-service training, facilitated a 24-hour prayer service for first responders, celebrated Blue Masses alongside first responders, provided support during critical incidents, and was on-call one week of every month to assist in making death notifications. Chaplain Appel's unwavering commitment to the City of Davenport has made our community a better place.



LIEUTENANT JASON ELLERBACH

Jason Ellerbach was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Ellerbach, a 16-year veteran of the department, has served on all three patrol shifts and spent eleven years in the Tactical Operations Bureau in the Street Crimes, Vice/Narcotics, Gang Investigations, and Gun Investigations Units. He also worked as a School Resource officer at North High School for nine years. He has served the department in many capacities including

on the Emergency Services Team and as an instructor for various training topics throughout his tenure. Lieutenant Ellerbach is currently assigned as the department's Internal Affairs Officer.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



PARTY IN THE PARK

The City of Davenport's Party in the Park events are off to a great start! With seven different opportunities to visit local neighborhood parks this summer, the free events have been very well attended. Kids and families enjoy free hot dogs, chips and drinks courtesy of our presenting sponsor Kraft Heinz along with a cold treat including popsicles, shaved ice, or ice cream. While at the park, games, activities, and crafts are available to all Party in the Park goers. The amount of participation from vendors this year has been incredible with 15+ organizations at each event. Attendees can visit booths to learn more about services provided to them and take home information and free goodies.



MUSIC ON THE RIVER

Music on the River kicked off in June with three different free concerts held at Petersen Pavilion bringing more than 600 spectators down to the riverfront.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

RIVERPALOOZA

Riverpalooza, a new concert series held in Quinlan Court on Thursday evenings, kicked off in June with five different events. Residents enjoyed free live music from various genres, beverages from Front Street Brewery, and dinner from multiple food truck vendors.



MOVIES ON THE MISSISSIPPI

The Riverfront Improvement Commission hosted Movies on the Mississippi June 10 featuring *The Sandlot*. Residents enjoyed the free event playing yard games prior to the movie and also had the opportunity to purchase snacks from local food vendors.



FAIRMOUNT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Discovery Phase of the Fairmount Library Community Center kicked off in June as staff and stakeholders came together to begin envisioning the purpose of the building, who it will serve, and what it will look like. A community outreach event was held along with an online input form for residents to provide feedback. The citizen input survey included 118 total responses, 91 of which were from the area code in which Fairmount Library is located or its adjacent neighborhoods. Data shows that citizens want a multi-purpose space that provides resources to kids in addition to an outdoor space that includes a playground or multi-sport court.

IAWEA CONFERENCE

Wastewater and water treatment professionals from across the state learned more about Davenport's Water Pollution Control Plant during a tour that kicked off the Iowa Water Environment Association 100th Annual Conference held in Davenport, in early June. Participants enjoys social hour at UP SkyBar, a golf outing a Emeis Golf Course and dinner at Celebration Bell.



FEJERVARY FAMILY FUN DAY: KICK OFF TO SUMMER

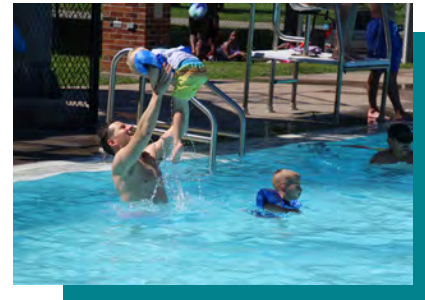
Davenport Parks and Recreation kicked off the summer with the June Fejervary Family Fun Day. Over 300 community members came out to celebrate summer with fun activities and games while having the chance to visit with community organizations such as Iowa State Extension – Extension and Outreach, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Parent Pals – Iowa Department of Public Health, Head Start and Early Head Start – Community Action of Eastern Iowa, Davenport Library OWL, Davenport Parks and Recreation – Environmental Education, Iowa Legal Aid, and Jumpin’ Joey’s Bounce Houses.



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FATHER'S DAY FIESTA AT ANNIE WITTENMYER AQUATIC CENTER

Dads celebrated their special day with free admission to the Annie Wittenmyer Aquatic Center on Sunday, June 19. Over 200 dads and their families cooled off during public swim.



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DFD RETIREE BREAKFAST

The DFD had the honor of hosting the annual retiree breakfast. Generations of firefighters gathered at Central Fire Station to enjoy a meal and fellowship. Hundreds of years of service, sacrifice, and smiles filled the room for the annual breakfast and conversation.



COPS N' KIDS BOOK DRIVE

Reading is a fundamental life skill but not every child has access to the books they need. On Friday, June 24, the Davenport Police Department teamed up with KWQC TV6 News and TMBC at the Lincoln Center for a Cops N' Kids Program Community Book Drive. Officers accepted books and monetary donations to support area children and families in need. Donated books will be available for Officers to give to children on calls, school visits, and at community events. Books will also be used by children at the Lincoln Center. "I am excited to have a role in an initiative that emphasizes the importance of education and reading in our community," Davenport Police Officer Kevin Carver said. "By placing these books in the hands of children who need them most, we have the privilege of shaping the future of our community, promoting literacy, and better preparing the youth of Davenport for a life of success."



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DAVENPORT POLICE ASSIST SENIORS AT IOWA FRAUD FIGHTERS EVENT



The Iowa Attorney General's Office hosted an Iowa Fraud Fighter's Event on June 7, 2022 at Rhythm City Casino to assist residents with consumer protection issues including how to spot and protect themselves from fraud. Davenport Police Sergeant Brandon Noonan, joined by state experts, conducted a panel discussion followed by a question and answer session to inform community members about identifying price gouging, hiring contractors, avoiding scams, and other issues. Individual community members had the opportunity to meet with Davenport Police personnel to learn how they could help prevent fraud, shield their savings, and arm themselves with the knowledge of how to avoid and report scams.

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READERS TRAILS

Readers Trails are popping up again around our community in support of the Summer Reading Program! Take a trip to the Eastern branch to read a story and take a walk along the beautiful pathways. Expect more to pop up throughout the community this summer!



DPD PROMOTION AWARD CEREMONY

The Davenport Police Department was pleased to host a Retirement, Awards, and Promotions Ceremony where members of the department were recognized for accomplishments and milestones in their careers over the past year.



LIBRARY IN THE PARK

For the second year in a row the Library and Community and Economic Development departments teamed up to offer Library in the Park utilizing CDBG funding. The program began in June visiting four different parks: Emeis, Goose Creek, Fejervary, and Harbor Road. This program provides individuals in the community with a full Library experience in Davenport parks.



FAIRMOUNT SUMMER MOVIES

For the second summer, Parks and Recreation and the Library collaborated to provide another successful movie night at the Fairmount Library! Patrons in the neighborhood enjoyed a movie on the big screen and refreshments free of charge on the Library lawn.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

