

April 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 DFD HOSTS ACCREDITATION CLASS

The Davenport Fire Department hosted a 3-day *Quality Improvement for the Fire and Emergency Service* workshop at the RiverCenter. This is a required workshop for fire departments to achieve, and maintain, accreditation status through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). Continuous improvement is a key aspect of the accreditation process, and in addition, this course identifies the appropriate methods to monitor current status, track progress, and creates goals for future improvement within the fire service. There were 25 fire executives from 15 different fire departments located in 11 different states in attendance:

- Davenport Fire Department
- Peoria Fire Department (IL)
- Des Moines Fire Department (IA)
- Upper Pine River Fire Protection District (CO)
- Green Bay Metro Fire Department (WI)
- Marion Fire Department (IA)
- Golder Ranch Fire Department (AZ)
- Sioux City Fire Rescue (IA)
- Yocha Dehe Fire Department (CA)
- Williston Fire Department (ND)
- City of Tulare Fire Department (CA)
- Salina Fire Department (KS)
- Swansboro Fire Department (NC)
- Lincoln Fire & Rescue (NE)
- North Shore Fire Department (WI)



02 PARKS & RECREATION PARTNERS WITH CHICK-FIL-A

Davenport Parks and Recreation recently partnered with Chick-fil-A to provide temporary employment to employees while the restaurant on East 53rd Street is being remodeled. Several Chick-fil-A team members have been hired at the golf courses and aquatics centers.

03 DPD TRAINING WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS

The Davenport Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division recently attended a training hosted by United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa Rich Westphal on how to develop cases for federal prosecution and take advantage of federal investigative resources. The training included representatives from the FBI and ATF and was meant to better inform detectives on investigative techniques and prosecution strategies. This training built upon DPD's increased engagement with federal partners over the past year, including FBI and ATF in weekly shoot reviews and advocacy with our federal elected delegation for additional federal resources in the Quad Cities..



04 PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Public Works Director Nicole Gleason and City Engineer Brian Schadt attended the Iowa Chapter APWA Spring Conference. During this professional development conference, Gleason presented on “Ethics in Public Works” and Schadt engaged Iowa municipalities and agencies in a conversation about rights-of-way (ROW). Brian will soon leave his position on the National APWA ROW Committee to start an Iowa-based APWA ROW Committee to better focus attention and effort on local ROW issues.



Kevan Oliver, Public Works Operations Project Manager, attended the three-day North American Snow Conference held in Omaha, Nebraska. Kevan learned about new technologies, equipment, and decision-making tools for snow operations and left the development opportunity with new ideas and perspectives on snow operations.

Also at the North American Snow Conference, Robbin Dunn, Public Works Communications and Preparedness Manager, presented along with representatives from Bettendorf, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Dubuque on snow plans. Their “Weather the Storm – Together” presentation focused on meeting and exceeding APWA snow operation accreditation standards. The hour-and-a-half presentation provided a great introduction to the elements of a plan, a townhall type question and answer period, and a thirty-minute opportunity to meet one-on-one with accredited agencies.

05 DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT VISITS DPD

Representatives from the Des Moines Police Department recently attended the Davenport Police Department’s weekly shoot review meeting to learn how the department has operationalized the weekly information sharing meetings. While here, DMPD representatives learned how DPD’s crime analysis unit compiles timely intelligence on all instances of gun violence over the past week for review by DPD’s investigators and command staff during this weekly briefing. The weekly shoot reviews were operationalized as a part of the Group Violence Intervention strategy earlier this year and are operational, frontline meetings designed to discuss all incidence of serious violence on a regular and recurring basis as well as provide real time intelligence on active drivers of violence in our community. These meetings have grown to include law enforcement partners from Scott and Rock Island counties, US Attorney’s office, Scott County Attorney’s Office, 7th Judicial District probation and parole, and juvenile court services.





06 DFD SWEARS-IN

Chief Carlsten had the opportunity to introduce the ten newest firefighters to the Mayor, City Council, and the community during a swearing-in ceremony, the largest group in almost 30 years.

These ten firefighters started with the City of Davenport in December 2022. They attended an eight-week in-house training program and will continue to work on achieving various State certifications. Through their preparation and training, recruits gained the experience needed to be assigned to a 24-hour shift. Since February, recruits have worked as crew members on a fire company performing the day-to-day activities of a firefighter.



Congratulations to our newly sworn firefighters!

Kyle Davis
Nicholas Marino
Kayla Jones
Nevin Goettsch
Megan Frey
Justinian Keimig
Logan Sehie
Aiden Gonzalez
Zack Caddell
Caleb Trier



07 GVI: ONE YEAR UPDATE

One year ago, the City of Davenport, embarked on a journey to tackle one of the most pressing issues facing our community - gun violence. Mayor Mike Matson, Chief Jeff Bladel, and Chief Strategy Officer Sarah Ott presented on the work that has been done over the past year to launch the Group Violence Intervention strategy in our community. GVI is a strategy aimed at keeping those at highest risk of violent victimization and offending safe, alive and out of prison.

Working together with law enforcement, social service providers, and community members, Davenport has seen initial success since implementing the GVI strategy in May 2022, including a 42% decrease in shots fired in 2023 to date as compared to the same time period last year.



08 CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT: ONE YEAR REVIEW

Davenport Police Lieutenant Jason Smith and Crime Analyst Allissa Hawk were featured guests of a national webinar hosted by the department's research partner IDEA Analytics to showcase the success stories of the Davenport Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit from its first year. The presentation focused on how the Crime Analysis Unit leveraged and aligned leadership, people, and technology to drive a department-wide data informed policing effort. The webinar was attended by analysts and various law enforcement officials from all over the United States.

Join Us!

DAVENPORT (IA) POLICE DEPARTMENT: ONE YEAR LATER

Aligning People, Leadership, and Technology for Data-informed Policing



Guest Speaker:
Jason Smith
Lieutenant - Davenport (IA)

Join us virtually

APRIL 5, 2023

10:00AM-11:00AM (PDT)
11:00AM-12:00PM (MDT)
12:00PM-1:00PM (CDT)
1:00PM-2:00PM (EDT)



Guest Speaker:
Allissa Hawk
Crime Analyst - Davenport (IA)



09 POLICE & FIRE HOST JOINT RESCUE TASK FORCE TRAINING

The Davenport Police and Fire Departments teamed up for recent training in practical exercises at the Davenport Community School District's Kimberly Center. Training focused on active shooter response and the communication needed as part of the Rescue Task Force. Numerous scenarios were conducted throughout the day to refine techniques and interagency response for effective incident resolution.





10 DAVENPORT CREDIT RATING UPDATE

The City of Davenport’s credit rating was upgraded from Aa3 to Aa2 (Moody’s) and the credit rating of AA (S&P) was reaffirmed for the upcoming 2023A bond issuance. These financial indicators are useful for assessing the City’s financial position.

Positive credit ratings can result in lower borrowing costs and increases Davenport’s ability to save money on financing, which often results in more available funds to spend directly on capital projects. These ratings demonstrate that Davenport has a very strong capacity to meet its financial obligations.

At the April 12, 2023 City Council meeting, staff updated the City Council on the results of the 2023A bond sale, and the closing will occur in May. Proceeds from these bonds will finance the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program.

11 GOLF COURSES OPEN FOR SEASON

With Spring on its way, all three Davenport golf courses opened on Saturday, April 1. Despite a few rainy and colder days, tee times have been booked and golfers are happily back on the courses. Emeis and Duck Creek Golf Courses were fully open, while Red Hawk Golf Course and Learning Center initially opened the driving range area. Golfers at Duck Creek Golf Course were treated to newly installed driving range tees.



12 NEW PLAYGROUND INSTALLED AT NORTH GAYMAN PARK

As part of Davenport Parks and Recreation’s playground replacement program, a new playground at North Gayman Park was recently installed and is ready for public use. The replacement program monitors the life cycle of all Davenport area playgrounds to ensure they are up-to-date and safe for all who use it.





13 DAVENPORT CELEBRATES NATIONAL CDBG WEEK

The City of Davenport celebrated National Community Development Week to help bring awareness to federal investment necessary to sustain Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs. Staff from Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks', Senator Joni Ernst's, and Senator Chuck Grassley's office and City Council members were invited on a tour that highlighted several projects that have benefited from these funds including a current Urban Homestead project and Blue Spruce Bakery who was a recipient of a small business loan.

Over the last 5 years, \$6.8 million in CDBG and HOME funds have benefited the Davenport community through various programs and partnerships such as Urban Homestead, The DREAM Project, Owner Occupied and Small Business Loans to provide safe, affordable housing and programs to our community.

These federal grant programs help build a stronger and more resilient community. CDBG funds support housing rehabilitation, emergency rental assistance, affordable housing development, public infrastructure projects, small business assistance, and a wide array of public service programming. HOME program funds support affordable rental housing development, direct rental assistance, housing rehabilitation, and home purchase assistance. Both programs target assistance to low-income households.

For nearly 50 years, CDBG has been an important resource for the Davenport community to devise programs and activities to address infrastructure, affordable housing, and community and economic development needs. For over 30 years, the HOME program has provided vital funding to help improve access to affordable housing.





Project Highlights:

Library Enhancements | Fairmount Community Center

On April 12, 2023, Davenport City Council awarded the contract for the Fairmount Community Center project to Precision Builders, Inc of Bettendorf, Iowa. City staff and Precision Builders Inc will hold a pre-construction meeting in early May with construction anticipated to begin by the end of May 2023.



*Renderings of Fairmount Community Center



Planning & Development

Neighborhood Reinvestment

Regional Transitional Housing | Staff and Council continue to explore options within the sector

Creating Places | Neighborhood Parks-Play

Cork Hill, Van Buren, and Herrington Multi-Sport Courts | Project is currently out to bid with a closing date of May 5, 2023

Emeis Ninja Warrior Playground | Scheduled delivery and installation occurring in May 2023

Emeis Adaptive & Inclusive Playground | In design phase through June of 2023

Creating Places

Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn | City Council recently approved a contract amendment with the project's design firm for the Main Street Landing component of the Destination Iowa project. Design work is expected to take approximately 10-14 months to complete; this includes obtaining any necessary federal or state permits

Library Enhancements

Fairmount Community Center | City Council awarded the contract to Precision Builders, Inc of Bettendorf, Iowa. Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of May 2023.

West Locust Sewer Connectivity

Duck Creek Sewer | All engineering design documents have been completed. The City is waiting to receive final federal and state permits before going out to bid to secure a construction contract

Multi-Modal Connectivity

Multi-Modal | N/S Path | The design process for the project continues; meanwhile, City staff will soon begin the land acquisition process with affected property owners

Flood Mitigation

Flood Mitigation Stage 22 | HR Green has begun the check plan design (95% plan preparation) and continued coordination with regulatory agencies and private utility owners



Construction

Neighborhood Reinvestment

DREAMPlus | Forty-seven projects are anticipated to be under contract by the end of the quarter. Work has begun for six of these projects

Creating Places |

Neighborhood Parks-Play
Whalen Playground | Installation will begin in late May 2023

Cork Hill Splashpad | Design is under the review of City staff and contracted engineers to finalize project engineering plans and specifications

Creating Places

Public Wi-Fi Hot Spots | Staff is currently testing all locations and hope to have a full launch summer of 2023



Completed

Creating Places | Neighborhood Parks-Play

Installation of Harbor Road playground

Installation of Lafayette Playground

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

Library Enhancements

Hiring of Library Social Worker

Launch of Pre-K Literacy Initiative

ARPA Continued



As of March 31, 2023, the City has expended 7.09%. 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-specific salaries.

Project	FY23	Project	Amount	
	Jan-Mar	Total	Allocated	% Used
ARPA Program Administration	\$ 22,799	\$ 235,644	\$ 1,050,000	22.44%
Neighborhood Stabilization (DREAM+)	520	17,395	2,000,000	0.87%
Regional Housing	-	-	600,000	0.00%
Coordinated Assessment Program (CAP)	41,366	248,486	1,000,000	24.85%
Group Violence Intervention	31,289	378,206	750,000	50.43%
Library Social Worker	22,011	127,845	273,700	46.71%
Pre-K Literacy Initiative	19,268	113,412	373,500	30.36%
Fairmount Library Community Center	86,157	159,950	3,600,000	4.44%
Neighborhood Parks Play	109,440	236,194	2,500,000	9.45%
MLK Plaza	-	-	500,000	0.00%
MSL Adventure Play & Event Lawn	48,621	118,804	6,000,000	1.98%
Public WiFi Hotspots	-	-	75,000	0.00%
Flood Mitigation River Drive	14,138	201,425	4,000,000	5.04%
Multi-Modal - N/S Path	99,660	183,450	4,000,000	4.59%
Duck Creek Sewer Extension	142,909	880,547	14,000,000	6.29%
Unallocated SLFRF			174,726	
	\$ 638,176	\$ 2,901,358	\$ 40,896,926	7.09%



Library Updates



01 GLOE TRIPS

The Davenport Public Library began their annual 1st grade visits with the Davenport Community School District (DCSD). Members of the Youth Services team, along with the Community Outreach and Marketing Team, visited Washington, Monroe, Buchanan, Jackson, Jefferson, Adams, Buffalo, and Blue Grass Elementary schools. DCSD 1st graders all received a library card, enjoyed story time, a local history discussion about their school, a craft, a sneak peek for summer reading, and a visit through the Outreach Wheeled Library (OWL). Davenport Public Library staff will visit the remaining DCSD schools in May.



02 NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

DPL joined the American Library Association in celebrating National Library Week to honor the great work that libraries do for their communities. A proclamation celebrating National Library Week was issued at the April 19 Committee of the Whole meeting. During National Library Week, Davenport library branches celebrated in the following ways:

- Monday: Right to Read Day
- Tuesday: National Library Workers Day
- Wednesday: National Library Outreach Day
- Thursday: Take Action for Libraries



03 PEACOCK SPEAKS AT IOWA LIBRARY LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

On April 14, Community Outreach and Marketing Supervisor Brittany Peacock represented Davenport Public Library and the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services by sitting in on a panel of experts in the field at the Iowa Library Leadership Symposium. Topics of discussion included changing trends in library services, connecting patrons outside of the library, can libraries be everything to everyone, and staff support. Serving as a panelist was an honor for Peacock because of the impressive backgrounds of her co-panelists.

04 ENHANCED SPACES

Davenport Public Library is currently fundraising to add interactive nature-themed kiosks, wall panels, and more to all three branches. The new spaces will allow youth to engage in different activities that support early literacy including talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. There will be letters and words, gears, magnetic pieces, song lyrics, varying textures, and other pieces that are perfect for hands-on play.



05 FRIENDS CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

The FRIENDS of the Davenport Public are celebrating their 40th anniversary as an organization. The mission of the FRIENDS of the Davenport Public Library is to raise funds and manage an endowment portfolio that will provide resources to support the literary and educational purposes of the Davenport Public Library.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



01 CENTRAL COMMUNITY CIRCLE

In true Davenport fashion, neighborhoods came together to keep our community clean. Central Community Circle, one of Davenport's Good Neighbor Projects, hosted its annual neighborhood clean-up event.

A large group consisting of neighbors, One Eighty affiliates, GNP members from Novelis, and staff from the Davenport Police Department met to clean up the neighborhood and surrounding areas. Davenport Public Works picked up all of the trash that was collected during the event.

02 COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

The City of Davenport hosted its second annual Community Egg hunt on Saturday, April 8 at Vander Veer Botanical Park. In preparation for the event, Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) and Good Neighbor Project (GNP) members joined City staff to stuff thousands of eggs with candy and prizes. Growing in attendance, well over 1,000 kids and family members gathered in the park to enjoy beautiful weather over the holiday weekend. "The success of this event was displayed through many smiling faces and we look forward to hosting again next year," said Allie McWilliams, Community Engagement Coordinator.



03 ARBOR DAY - MIDAMERICAN GRANT

Davenport celebrated Arbor Day in style. Embracing its 42nd year as a Tree City USA, Forestry staff engaged several groups in planting trees throughout the City:

- Volunteers from the local Chapter of XiEta Omega of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Society planted trees along Veterans Memorial Parkway
- Volunteers from Rhythm City Casino planted trees in LeClaire Heights Park
- Volunteers from MidAmerican Energy will join staff in planting at Credit Island Park after the Mississippi recedes in May

Thanks to a \$5,000 MidAmerican Energy Trees Please grant, the City continues to have the ability to expand and enhance our urban forest.



04 DAVENPORT POLICE PINWHEEL GARDEN - NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

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 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.

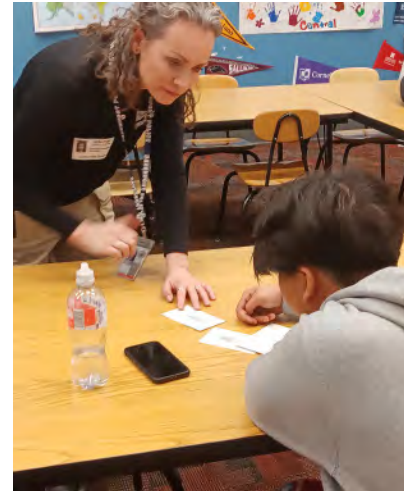
05 DAVENPORT POLICE GOES ABOVE & BEYOND

While on a call, Davenport Police Officers Matt Lovelady and Bobby Bytnar noticed a group of kids trying to play basketball; however, tree branches were blocking the basket. After finishing their call, these officers stopped to shoot hoops with the kids. Officers Lovelady and Bytnar worked with the kids' mother and came back the next day, on their own time, to cut down the branches and allow the kids to be able to play ball.



06 DPD TEACHES CENTRAL HIGH STUDENTS ABOUT FORENSICS

Davenport Police I.D. Bureau Manager Jessica Heising was invited to teach Davenport Central High School IJAG ninth and tenth grade program students about forensics. Students learned about the different types of latent prints, careers in forensics, and how to fingerprint.



07 DPD PARTNERS TO DELIVER SUPPLIES TO THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



Davenport Police Community Impact Team Officers partnered with Evolution Power Tools to deliver a donation of approximately 50 backpacks filled with essentials for those experiencing homelessness to Humility of Mary Homes and Services. Inside each backpack were flashlights, snacks, hand warmers, and a kind note, providing much-needed comfort and support to those experiencing homelessness.

08 DAVENPORT FIRE YOUTH FIRE SETTER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Fire Prevention Bureau has been conducting talks with area 6th graders as part of the Youth Firesetter Intervention Program. The students are given information on continuing education, career paths, and criminal fire investigations. The students are also provided a custom booklet from the DFD entitled Pathways to guide the conversation. The interactions are part of the Community Risk Reduction efforts in fire service taught by the National Fire Academy.



09 EARTH DAY CLEANUP EVENT

In celebration of Earth Day, Davenport Parks and Recreation hosted a Duck Creek Earth Day Cleanup. Participants, a mix of Davenport residents and students from Central High School, met at a Duck Creek Park shelter for a short informational presentation, then walked to the trail system where volunteers removed invasive species to allow native flora a chance to re-inhabit the areas.



10 DAVENPORT PARKS & RECREATION APPEARANCE AT COMMUNITY EVENTS



Davenport Parks and Recreation had the opportunity to participate in three community events this month. Staff attended the Annual Summertime Youth Activities Expo at the Rock Island Arsenal to engage with service members and their families about all of the class, event, and program offerings available in Davenport. Two other staff members attended the Spring Into Wellness event at Fairmount Library to highlight sports, health, and wellness programs hosted by the department. Horticulture staff attended Plants, Paths and Pizza hosted by Wild Ones and Western Illinois University which brought together Quad Cities community members and nature professionals to learn more about the importance of connections to nature and what local organizations are doing to support nature-based learning.

11 DJT MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION - SQUIRREL GIRL

Davenport Junior Theatre, Inc hosted a spring Mainstage Production of Marvel Spotlight: Squirrel Girl Goes to College. Based on the Marvel Squirrel Girl comics, the show tells the story of Doreen and her first experiences at college - making new friends and saving her fellow students from super villains while keeping her identity a secret. The production ran over two weekends on Saturday and Sunday. Mainstage Productions are always free to all attendees. Free admission is supported by donations and grants overseen by Junior Theatre, Inc, the non-profit partner of Davenport Junior Theatre.



12 FRIENDS OF VANDER VEER PLANT SALE

The Friends of Vander Veer plant sale is a community favorite every year and a kick off to the spring season. Attendees were able to shop a variety of plants for indoor and outdoor settings including annuals, perennials and tropicals. All proceeds support the Friends of Vander Veer, whose mission is to support the continued beautification of Vander Veer Botanical Park.



13 ARBOR DAY TREE GIVEAWAY

Park and Recreation horticulture staff hosted a tree giveaway as part of Arbor Day. The pop up event had 160 available trees that were handed out in under 30 minutes to the Davenport community. The trees available included Bur Oaks, Red Oaks, Swamp White Oaks and Shagbark Hickory. These were made available as part of the Million Tree Program in partnership with Living Land and Waters.



14 SPRING FORMAL DANCE

Davenport and Bettendorf Parks and Recreation departments co-hosted the annual Spring Formal on Sunday, April 30 at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Starlite Ballroom. Over 200 attendees enjoyed this special evening of dinner, dancing, and activities for Quad Cities area individuals with disabilities. The event is part of the Adaptive and Inclusive programming offered through the City.