

March 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 DAVENPORTU KICKOFF COHORT

The 2023 Spring DavenportU Citizens Academy Cohort of 15 participants kicked off the 10-week program with “An Introduction to Government”.

Participants will experience a behind the scenes look at local government including community development processes, community policing, and budget planning. Interactive activities consist of a day spent in the field with Public Works staff, Police Department simulations, tours of several City-owned facilities, and various staff presentations. DavenportU Citizens Academy will conclude with graduation in May.



02 ICMA CITY-COUNTY MANAGEMENT SENIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (CMSFP)

Davenport was selected as one of sixteen communities to serve as a host community for the 2023 City-County Management Senior Fellowship Program through the International City Manager’s Association. Davenport is the only Midwestern community selected, and joins a cohort that includes Charlotte, Austin, Greensboro, Scottsdale and more. In May, Davenport will host David Harper (GS-14), the Training Division Chief for Fort Sill.

The CMSFP is a tailorable program designed to enable Army participants to gain a better understanding of city/county management. ICMA is partnering with the Army to prepare individuals to manage military installations through a city-county management fellowship. Harper will spend one-week in Davenport, on-the-ground “shadowing” experience working alongside Davenport city leaders.



03 CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

As a critical component of emergency preparedness, Davenport held its annual cross-departmental emergency exercise in partnership with Scott County Emergency Management. Focused on information technology threats, the workshop engaged all departments in policy and procedural discussion resulting in plans for strengthening interagency coordination, response, and recovery.



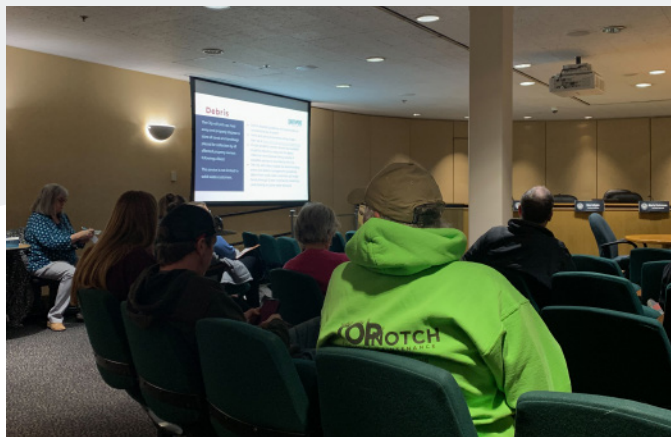
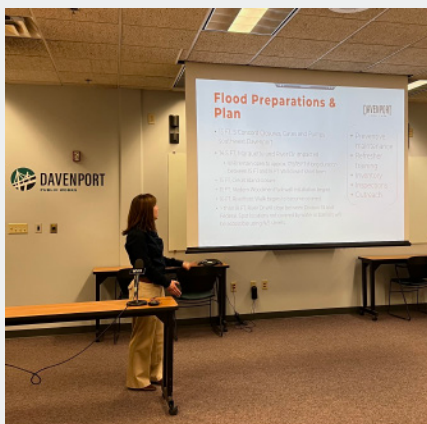
The annual professional development activity is an excellent way for the agency to strengthen interdepartmental relationships and understanding, raise awareness of internal capabilities, identify potential issues, and improve processes or discover needed solutions.

04 FLOOD PREPARATION

With an above-average potential for spring flooding, the City began preparing following a series of Spring Flood Outlook briefings by the National Weather Service. Preparations have included refresher training for staff, plan review in the event of flooding, inventory of resources, and community preparedness communication and meetings.

With resilience in mind and an understanding that we can't control the weather but can control our preparedness, communication has included reminders about the flood plan, what to expect, responsibilities, and resources. Staff mailed invitations to attend two community meetings that focused on preparing property owners located in the riverfront floodplain for flooding. Information on resources such as sand and sandbags, flood insurance, flood forecast, mitigation, and potential recovery steps were covered along with having City Floodplain Managers on site to answer questions.

It remains too early to tell to what extent Davenport will see spring flooding. Rest assured - we are ready and resilient.



05 COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM INCREASED

Davenport recently went through a 5-year audit cycle visit from FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System Program. While staff increased the City's overall CRS score by adding additional resilience resources, it was noted the additional points would not move the needle to a higher CRS rating at this time. Plans to request a mid-cycle review in two to three years are in the works as the City anticipates it will have the resources and scoring in place to move Davenport's score from a 7 to a 6 at that timeframe, pending building code discussions currently happening at the state level.

On March 29, the City was informed by NFIP CRS representatives that the City's plan achieved the maximum score and considered one of the best plans in the nation.

Staying a CRS participant in good standing benefits the community through community preparedness and resilience, as well as rate reductions on flood insurance. Flood insurance policyholders are currently eligible for a 15% rate reduction due to Davenport's participation in the CRS and its score.

Information on the City's newly adopted Substantial Damage Management Plan and the National Weather Service Annual Spring Flood Outlook will now become part of annual practice to ensure officials and the community remain engaged and up-to-date on issues related to floods in our Mississippi riverfront community.

06 DAVENPORT COMPOST FACILITY UPDATE FEES

The Davenport Compost Facility will see an increase in fees starting Saturday, April 1, 2023 due to an overabundance of brush and trees and increasing supply costs. Having been in operation for nearly three decades, this is only the second price increase at the Compost Facility since beginning operation in 1995.

Highlights of the fee changes include:

- Commercial businesses will be charged a drop-off fee for yard waste, brush, wood chips, and trees disposed of at the facility.
- There is no increase to residential drop-off fees.
- The delivery area has been updated and delivery fees will be increased by \$5 per load.
- Compost spreader rentals will see a slight increase.
- Bulk product rates will see a slight increase.



07 STAFF PRESENTS AT QUAD CITY AREA REALTOR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Mayor Matson, Chief Bladel, and Sarah Ott presented at the Quad City Area Realtor Association's annual meeting on the perception versus reality of crime in Davenport neighborhoods and shared specific strategies that are being implemented by the City and the Davenport Police Department to combat violent crime. QCARA membership shared how informative this presentation was and how this information will benefit them working with clients. In addition, staff shared additional ways for QCARA membership to become involved in revitalizing heritage neighborhoods through programs like the Extreme DREAM Project.



08 FINANCE RECEIVES GFOA AWARD

The City of Davenport Finance Department received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 28th consecutive year. This award represents a standard of excellence and transparency in budgeting. The City met the nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that include representing the budget document as a policy document, financial plan, performance evaluation tool, and an operations guide.



09 BUDGET RECAP

On March 22, the City Council formally adopted the FY 2024 Budget. From the date of adoption, staff has 90 days to prepare the FY 2024 budget document which will be submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) in June for review for the Distinguished Budget Award criteria.

The approved budget remains mission-aligned and continues the focus on operational pillars, ARPA, and the City Administrator’s workplan, complies with the City Council’s policies for all reserve and liquidity targets & financial policies, and maintains the current tax levy rate of \$16.78/1,000 taxable value and current service levels.

	Adopted FY 2023	Adopted FY 2024
Operating	\$154,642,620	\$161,156,435
Capital	\$45,592,594	\$49,575,881
Debt	\$35,877,850	\$31,802,176
Total	\$236,113,064	\$242,534,492

Below are highlights of the FY 2024 Budget:

FY 2024 Budget dedicates funding for the following programs/projects:

- \$1.0M for Flood Resiliency Program
- \$4.5M for Neighborhood Street Repair Program
- \$4.6M for High Volume Street Repair Program
- \$1.2M for Sewer Lateral Repair Program
- \$1.3M for Duck Creek Sewer Interceptor Extension
- \$9.5M for 3rd & 4th Street Rehabilitation
- \$5.7M for Transit Replacement Program
- \$1.5M for Utah Avenue Bridge at Duck Creek



10 2023 STREETS OVERVIEW

Momentum and focus on street and sewer infrastructure continues with the approval of the FY 2024 budget allocating \$23 million in street and \$7.75 million in sewer infrastructure improvements during the 2023/2024 construction season.

Here's some of the work the public will see in the 2023 construction season:

- East 53rd Street | Work on segments 4 and 5 of the Phase II project will begin in the Spring of 2023. Once complete in the fall of 2023, East 53rd Street will have been fully reconstructed, widened with the addition of a recreational trail, and received utility and stormwater improvements from Brady Street to Elmore Circle.
- Central Park Avenue and Hickory Grove Road intersection improvements.
- Central Park Avenue resurfacing from Brady Street to Pershing Avenue, and Farnam Street at Central Park Avenue intersection improvements.
- Eastern Avenue and Locust Street intersection improvement.
- Clark Street reconstruction between 11th and 13th Streets.
- West 36th Street reconstruction between Division and Pacific Streets.
- Mound Street reconstruction between Locust and Elm Streets.
- Waverly Road reconstruction between Lincoln Avenue and Schuetzen Lane.
- Locust Street reconstruction between Marquette and Division Streets.

Additionally, twelve neighborhood streets will see contracted reconstruction, eight neighborhood streets will have contracted resurfacing performed, and resurfacing will be scheduled for twenty neighborhood streets using in-house resources.

The budget cycle FY 2023 and FY 2024, will also pave the way for improvements to five alleys, recreational trail improvements, and significant investment in sewers with the start of the Tremont Street Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Replacement project which will replace significantly aging infrastructure.



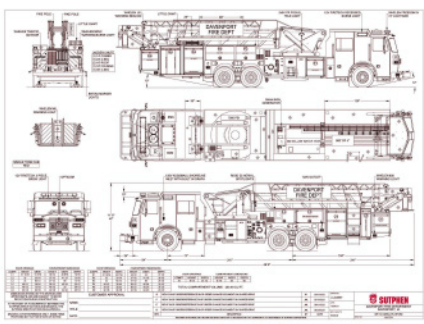
11 SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

City staff recently presented to the City Council the outcomes of a year-long project to develop a Damage Assessment and Substantial Damage Management Plan for the City. The plans went into effect with Council adoption on March 22. Approval of the plans provides for a streamlined process for rapid needs assessments in support of response activities, efficient damage assessment activities when needed, as well as establishing a fair and equitable method for determining substantial damage following a disaster. The plans improve the City's readiness, response capabilities, and resilience to disaster.



12 NEW TRUCK FINAL INSPECTION

Fire administration recently traveled to Ohio for the final inspection of the department's new aerial apparatus which will become Truck 3. After undercoating and installation of EMS cabinets, the fire truck will be delivered to Davenport. Public works will install brackets specific to the tools and equipment needed for emergency response. Fire personnel will train on the fire truck before it is officially put into service to ensure operational confidence.



13 DAVENPORT POLICE CONDUCTS SWOT ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Davenport Police initiated a department-wide strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis with representatives from all divisions within the agency. Participants took part in an internal workshop aimed at identifying and prioritizing DPD's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This analysis will help inform the agency's five-year strategic plan and goals focusing on the department's strategic priorities, objectives, and action items that support the mission and philosophy of the department.



14 DAVENPORT FIRE HOSTS ISO RATING CLASS

The Davenport Fire Department hosted an ISO Grading Schedule class with over 80 attendees from Iowa and Illinois including individuals from fire departments, Iowa American Water and other water services, dispatch personnel, building inspectors and planners, directors of utility, and emergency management agencies.

This course provided Davenport and other agencies an opportunity to understand how to improve the ISO score for our community and gain a better understanding of the process.

An ISO fire rating is a score provided to fire departments and insurance companies by the Insurance Services Office. The score reflects how prepared a community and area are for fires. While it mainly focuses on the local fire departments and water supply, there are other factors that contribute to an area's score.



15 SUMMER KIDS PASS BACK FOR 2023

The Summer Kids Pass is back for 2023 and can be purchased at The River's Edge or online. New this year, in an effort to make the program more accessible participants' accompanying adult (1 per pass holder) will also gain free admission to Davenport pools, Red Hawk Golf Course, and River Bandits home games. Partnering agencies this year are Davenport Parks and Recreation, Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center, Citibus, Figge Art Museum, Putnam Museum and River Bandits.



16 RAGBRAI | BE BOLD. RIDE GOLD.

On March 9, the Davenport RAGBRAI team released its logo, theme, and dip site. The logo and theme "Be Bold. Ride Gold." incorporate the 50 years of RAGBRAI, the excitement of the riders to tackle the 500-mile route, and the importance of the Mississippi River for the dip site. This year's dip site will be at the Marquette Street boat ramp and Veterans Memorial Park. Details, including the host committee, housing, transportation, parking, campgrounds, corporate sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, the vendor program, and entertainment will be announced in the months leading up to the event.

A website was also launched where riders and Quad Citizens can find information about RAGBRAI: www.davenportragbrai.com.



17 IAPRA CONFERENCE HOSTED IN DAVENPORT

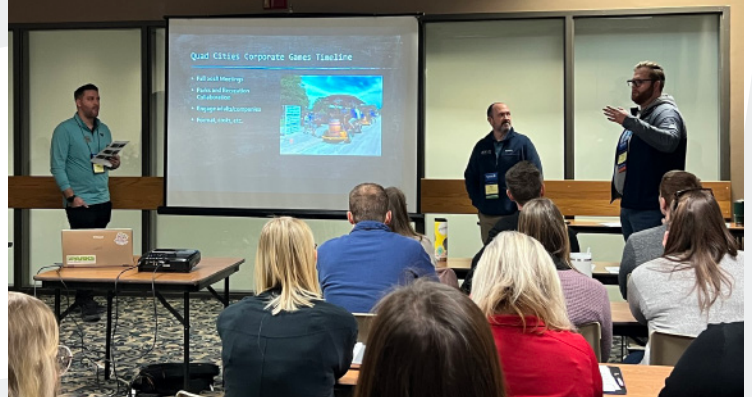
Davenport hosted the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association's (IAPRA) annual Spring Conference. The conference brought over 145 parks and recreation professionals from not just Iowa, but adjacent states, providing opportunities to network with one another, attend educational sessions, and learn about the latest trends in the industry.

Conference Highlights:

- thirty-two educational sessions
- four guided, experiential tours hosted by Davenport Parks and Recreation staff
- four panel discussions covering leadership, sports field maintenance, marketing and sports programming
- forty-six vendors in the exhibit hall with the latest equipment, playgrounds, and resources for agencies
- two evening socials
- two keynote lunches
- three guided morning walks
- Best of the Best awards dinner

In addition to hosting duties, several City of Davenport staff from various departments led educational sessions covering topics like partnerships/collaboration both interdepartmentally and with community agencies, prioritizing park projects, social media and marketing, conflict de-escalation in the workplace, and positive psychology in work cultures.

Davenport Parks and Recreation team member Bill Youngberg won the award for Permanent Part-Time Team Member. Bill oversees all aspects of the volleyball leagues including recruitment and promotion, scheduling league play, scorekeeping, and officiating when needed. Bill has been with the department for over 13 years and is a staple in the Davenport volleyball community. He was instrumental in helping the Department's volleyball leagues return after COVID cancellations. Thanks to him, the 2022-2023 season had a record number of teams in the league! Bill was presented with the award at the Best of the Best Banquet Dinner on the final evening of the conference.





18 EXTREME DREAM LAUNCHES

Over the past five years, the City Council has placed a high priority on the investment and revitalization of heritage neighborhoods in Davenport, ensuring that all neighborhoods are a safe and thriving place to call home.

To further this priority, the City of Davenport announced the launch of the Extreme DREAM Project, a new program designed to rehab vacant and abandoned homes into owner-occupied residences in the Gaines Street corridor. Extreme DREAM builds on the previous success of the Davenport DREAM Project, DREAM Plus, and Commercial DREAM showcasing the commitment the City has to investing in the heritage neighborhoods and continued vitality.

The Extreme DREAM Project offers a dollar for dollar match up to \$100,000 to purchase and rehabilitate a property in the project area. Davenport has allocated \$2.1 million for the project, funded by the sale of the Heritage building in 2021.

The Extreme DREAM Project will focus on vacant and abandoned properties that meet the following two qualifications: been vacant for at least six months and have severe code violations. Following renovations, the home must either be owner-occupied or sold to an owner occupant.

Applications are now being accepted and it is anticipated that the first set of awards will be made later this summer.



Extreme
DREAM

SAFETY IS #1



Every spring, the Davenport Parks and Recreation department begins its busy spring and summer recruitment. A big part of this hiring effort is the training program. Tom Franks, Davenport Parks and Recreation Safety Training Officer, led 3 trainings in March for all incoming staff working in a variety of capacities for the department. Safety trainings cover emergency procedures, equipment training, PPE, hazard recognition, and staff member interactions with the public. Since formalizing this training program several years ago, Franks noted he has seen a decrease in not only the injury rate but also the severity of injury.





Project Highlights:

Pre-K Literacy Initiative | Over 1,171 children have enrolled in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative. Sixty-seven children have completed the program, and 119 readers have made it to the halfway point!

This year, the library will market an eight-week billboard campaign, rotating billboards across three locations in Davenport, to promote the Pre-K literacy initiative. Additionally, the Davenport Library is creating a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Book Club focused on newborns through preschoolers. The monthly book club will provide each family with a free featured book, explain why the book was selected, and demonstrate how it supports the development of the child. Guardians will then have an opportunity to share how they used the book at home, creating an atmosphere of informed and involved caretakers that feel confident about choosing books for their little ones.



Planning & Development

Neighborhood Reinvestment

Vacant and Abandoned Properties | Council approved the Extreme DREAM program in March 2023

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 | City staff anticipates going out to bid in April 2023

Emeis Ninja Warrior Playground | In design phase through June of 2023

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

Creating Places

Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn | Over 400 people participated in the 2nd wave of engagement

Library Enhancements

Fairmount Community Center | Bid closed in March

West Locust Sewer Connectivity

Duck Creek Sewer | City staff anticipates going to bid in April 2023 for a construction contract

Multi-Modal Connectivity

Multi-Modal | N/S Path | Snyder and Associates is in the process of creating the necessary platting information that the City will use for acquisition of right-of-ways and easements

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 | Projects beginning as soon as weather permits, spring 2023

Creating Places |

Neighborhood Parks-Play

Whalen Playground | Scheduled for spring 2023 installation

Cork Hill Splashpad | Scheduled for spring 2023 installation

Creating Places

Public Wi-Fi Hot Spots | Set to launch late spring 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



01 STEPHANIE MARVIN COMPLETES CERTIFIED TOURISM AMBASSADORSHIP (CTA)

Customer Services Supervisor Stephanie Marvin completed the Certified Tourism Ambassadorship™ (CTA) through a CTA class hosted by Visit Quad Cities. Marvin is the first Quad City library employee to complete this program and is excited to share what she has learned in the program to inspire staff and patrons.



02 CO-PRESENTING AT IOWA PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE AT THE RIVER CENTER

Brittany Peacock, Community Outreach and Marketing Supervisor, was asked to co-present at the Iowa Parks and Recreation Conference at the River Center on March 29 to share the importance of Library and Parks collaborations.



03 SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICES FAIR AT CASI

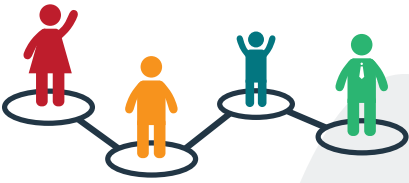
Michelle Frieden (Community Outreach and Marketing) and Quinn O'Brian (Social Worker) attended a Senior Social Services Fair at CASI on March 28. The pair had a table promoting Library services while connecting attendees with information and helpful resources.



04 DAVENPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Davenport Public Library partnered with the FRIENDS of the Davenport Public Library, Davenport Community Schools, Rock Island Public Library, Rock Island High School, and Love Girls Magazine to bring best-selling author Nic Stone to the Quad Cities on March 2. Stone spoke to hundreds of students, signed books, took photos, and enjoyed a lunch from Zeke's Island Cafe. A huge thank you to the FRIENDS for the financial support to make this a possibility and Amber Carlson (Youth Services Librarian) and Emily Simpao (Youth Services Supervisor) for coordinating this very successful event for 800-900 area students.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



01 ART IN CITY HALL

Art in City Hall is a way for the creative and bright young artists of Davenport Community Schools to showcase and receive recognition for their creative works. Twenty-seven pieces of artwork are on display in City Hall for the next year. The artists were acknowledged during a presentation at the March 8 City Council Meeting in front of family and friends, and each received a certificate of achievement.



City Hall is honored to host this exhibit, in partnership with the school district, to display the talents of the youth in our community.

02 PARKS & RECREATION INCREASES ITS SEASONAL RECRUITMENT

Parks and Recreation staff, with the assistance of Human Resources, have increased recruitment efforts this year. In addition to starting the process earlier than usual, staff has been attending hiring fairs throughout the community including at high schools and on college campuses. Staff have also hosted seven open interview sessions at Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center and The River's Edge with at least one more scheduled for April. These efforts have yielded more onboarded employees compared to the same time last year.



03 CHILI OPEN GOLF CLASSIC

Chili Open Golf Classic was held Saturday, March 4 with clear skies, open ground, and regular golf holes at Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center. The annual event, a favorite within the golf community, hosted 129 golfers throughout the day. The winning score of the day belonged to Neko Baserra with a score of 31.

04 SPRING BREAK AT DAVENPORT JUNIOR THEATRE

During Spring Break Davenport Junior Theatre held its annual Spring Break Camp. This year's theme was *Journey Through Time*. A total of 59 youth, ages 6 to 13, attended and had the opportunity to create an original play based on a point in time with a performance for family at the end of the week. In addition to development of each performance, participants learned a musical theatre routine, made crafts, and toured the back stage to observe technical parts of the theatre.



05 TREE WRAP-A-THON PARTNERSHIPS

The Tree Wrap-A-Thon, a partnership with Living Lands and Waters' Million Trees Project, allowed several volunteer opportunities for several community organizations such as St. Ambrose Women's Soccer team, the Women's NAACP and Progressive Action Board, and St. Paul Church. A total of 3,100 trees were completed for the project during the month long event.

06 DAVENPORT POLICE AND FIRE CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY AT HAYES ELEMENTARY

In early March, Davenport Police and Fire Departments joined students at Hayes Elementary School to celebrate Read Across America Day. DPD's Sgt. Harris and DFD's Lt. Soliz partnered with the Davenport Community School District to promote literacy and emphasize the importance of education and reading in our community.

