

July 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 NEW DAVENPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUITS

The next generation of firefighters for Davenport walked through the doors of Central Fire Station on July 9. Four new hires are currently going through the eight-week DFD Recruit Academy. At the conclusion of their training, the probationary firefighters will be assigned to a shift and rig.

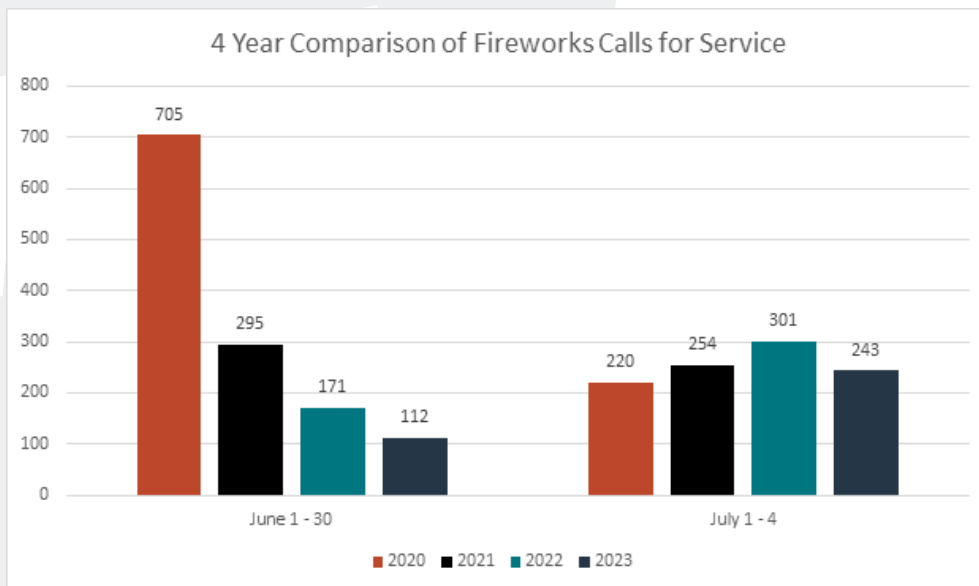


02 FIREWORK DEBRIEF

Firework-related calls for service were compared during the same time periods over the past four years. Complaints received in the month of June 2023 decreased by 34.50% from 2022. Complaints received July 1 – July 4 in 2023 decreased 19.27% from 2022. This is the first year complaints have decreased in July over the past four year.

The City conducted a significant communications and public outreach strategy on firework safety and the local legal firework discharge window and locations. Informational postcards were sent to each Davenport resident outlining when fireworks can lawfully be discharged and the legal and financial ramifications for illegal discharge. A targeted digital media strategy was also implemented, accumulating over 130,000 impressions for the second year in a row.

Davenport Fire inspected twelve state-approved tents and buildings that sold consumer-grade fireworks and responded to ten incidents related to fireworks including one structure fire and one injury which was noted to be minor. Other calls for service included dumpster and field fires.



03 DFD RECEIVES \$600,000 FIREBOAT GRANT

DFD received a Port Security Grant from FEMA worth \$600,000. With the City's \$200,000 contribution, this funding will be used to replace DFD's current large fireboat stationed at the boathouse with a more capable and safer one.

DFD collaborates with the Quad Cities Area Maritime Security Committee and nearby agencies to ensure the safety and security of the Port of Davenport and surrounding ports. The need for an updated fireboat is due to the high volume of commerce that passes through the river, including barges, trains, and commercial passenger vessels.

The new fireboat will feature an enclosed cabin to protect patients from the elements until they can be transferred to an ambulance onshore. Additionally, it will be equipped with navigational and communication equipment to allow for collaboration with the Coast Guard during large-scale incidents.



FEMA

04 ADDITIONAL FIRE GRANTS

Davenport Fire received two grants from Walmart totaling \$5,500 and a \$500 grant from Casey's. The grants will be used to assist with the purchase of Positive Pressure Fans utilized for fire suppression and replace used equipment.

05 DPD OFFICERS ATTEND THREE-DAY CRIMINAL INTERDICTION WORKSHOP

Officers Larry Le and Riley McIntyre attended a hands-on Criminal Interdiction Workshop that provided an opportunity to learn current trends in interdiction, hone their skills, and be exposed to the latest contraband and concealment techniques. Officers participated in case law training, deceptive behavior recognition, opioid epidemic and officer safety training, developing roadside conversational skills, and were provided with interdiction resources.

06 FOUR DPD OFFICERS BECOME CERTIFIED BALLISTIC SHIELD INSTRUCTORS

Four officers attended a four-day course to become certified to instruct and maintain the successful Ballistic Shield Program at DPD. Officers conducted various hands-on training exercises focusing on mechanics, low-light situations, malfunctions, movement, and problem-solving while utilizing a ballistic shield. Through lectures and practical exercises, officers built on their foundational knowledge to continue officer safety best practices.

07 DAVENPORT PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINS HOSTS PEER TRAINING FOR U.S. AIR FORCE CHAPLAINS

Davenport Police hosted the United States Air Force 132nd Wing Chaplain Team for a peer exchange in mid-July. Davenport Officers and chaplains had the opportunity to explain how Davenport's Public Safety Chaplains support the mental and spiritual needs of the community and first responders during the recent partial building collapse and year-round. USAF Chaplains, Religious Affairs Airmen, and Davenport Police Officers and Chaplains had the opportunity to exchange expertise and tap into each other's experiences to enhance both agency's Chaplain Corps.



08 POLICE OFFICER APPLICANT OPEN HOUSE

DPD hosted a recruitment open house for individuals involved and interested in the Police Officer application process. Those in attendance learned about department benefits, updates, initiatives, training, and professional partnerships, along with divisional positions and specialty unit opportunities. Prospective applicants had the opportunity to meet with the Chief and personnel for an in-depth look at the department.

09 ALLEY PROGRAM

The application period for the City's annual alley resurfacing and reconstruction cost-share program was open June 15 through July 15, and 13 applications were received. Applicants have until mid-August to file the applicable petition documents with staff to proceed to the next steps in the program. In 2022, ten applications were received. Of those ten, five applicants achieved the required 50% or greater opt-in rate and all projects were successfully completed.

10 YOUTH ENJOY IOWA QC LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMP

Twenty-one high school and college-aged students had the opportunity to receive a 27-hour glimpse of what law enforcement is all about during the 2023 Iowa QC Law Enforcement Camp. Attendees received an inside look at the department and learned what it takes to become a police officer through hands-on interactive experiences.



11 CITIBUS PASS CHANGES

Davenport CitiBus has updated its fare collection system which improves the process and provides new fare options. With the update, riders will see the return of punch transfer tickets and a new 7-day or 30-day pass, and the current Smart Card will be phased out. Riders were informed on the website and via the new SPOT app.



Here's a recap of changes:

- There is no change to the current fare structure.
- Existing Smart Cards with a balance can be used through August 31. Beginning September 1, CitiBus will no longer accept the Smart Card.
- The City now has both 7-day and 30-day passes available for purchase. A 7-day pass is \$6, and a 30-day pass is \$22.
- The current white 30-day passes with magnetic strip will not be accepted after August 31.
- Hand punch transfers will resume September 1.
- Fare boxes will be used for depositing cash and coin fares only beginning September 1.

12 2023 CONSTRUCTION SEASON UPDATE

Davenport's construction season had an aggressive start with East 53rd Street, Central Park Avenue and Hickory Grove Road, Eastern Avenue and Locust Street, and 36th Street improvements. Here's what the community will see next as we head into late summer and fall.

- 54th Street Reconstruction | Howell to Kelling Reconstruction
- Mound Street Resurfacing and Reconstruction | Locust to Elm
- Carriage Hill Drive Reconstruction | 32nd to 500' South
- West 7th Street Resurfacing | Gaines to Ripley
- South Clark Street Resurfacing | Rockingham to Bridge
- West Locust Street Resurfacing | Marquette to Division
- West 13th Street Resurfacing – Brown to Scott
- DOT Road Patching Projects – Various on Kimberly, Brady, and Harrison





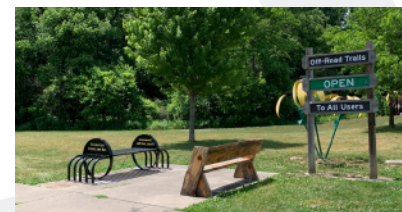
13 DUCK CREEK MURALS

The City partnered with the Quad City Arts Youth Metro Apprenticeship program and Partners of Scott County Watersheds to create murals in City parks. Volunteers power washed and primed restrooms and maintenance structures at five sites including Junge, Marquette, Garfield, Eastern, and Northwest Parks during United Way's Spring Day of Caring. Since that time, volunteers have finished murals at Junge and Marquette Parks. The plan is to complete the remaining sites by this fall.



14 DAVENPORT WEST HIGH PARTNERSHIP

Parks and Recreation staff has partnered with Davenport West High School's welding program on a variety of projects over the last several years. Last year, staff met with students to create ten custom bicycle racks for placement throughout the parks system. Students developed and molded miniature plastic models that were presented to Parks staff and members from the Park Advisory Board. A total of ten bench/bicycle rack combos were produced with five installed in July and the remaining scheduled for installation in August.



15 MRCTI UPDATE

Last year, the City, the Waste Commission of Scott County, surrounding communities, and environmental agencies engaged with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Plastic Pollution Initiative (MRCTI) in a study that temporarily installed litter traps in Davenport. Part of the study, funded by the CEC, includes examining data collected from the traps and other cleanups to better understand litter and plastic pollution. The study is now moving into its third phase seeking community input on ways to prevent plastic litter. Community input is being sought through in person workshops and an online survey. Next steps in the study will develop a regional action plan to reduce plastic pollution following analysis of community feedback and litter data. Updates will be provided this fall.

16 DILLON FOUNTAIN REPAIR

Work to raise the electrical at Dillon Fountain is underway. The project is CIP funded; however, thanks to an approximately \$30,000 donation received by the Downtown Davenport Partnership, additional improvements have been made to irrigation and landscaping. Future use of the donation may include refurbishing the plaque and resetting some bricks. The improvements are being coordinated by Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff.

17 NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION MONTH: WHERE COMMUNITY GROWS

July was National Park and Recreation Month! The department celebrated with community events, programs and classes, a parks and recreation inspired book display at all three Davenport Public Library branches, and a social media campaign spotlighting the important role of parks and recreation in communities across the nation. This year's theme, *Where Community Grows*, celebrated the vital role parks and recreation professionals play in bringing people together, providing essential services, and fostering the growth of our communities.

Each week on social media, Davenport Parks and Recreation highlighted various topics including programming and staff recognition.



Park Operations staff oversee and maintain over 3,600 acres of green space and parks and 25 miles of recreation trails.



Recreation programming staff provide over 550 class sessions a year for youth and adults in sports, wellness, performing arts, aquatics, early childhood learning, nature and gardening, and adaptive and inclusive programming.



Davenport Parks and Recreation has approximately 80 staff year round (full time and part time), but will hire an additional 200 for the spring and summer months to support park maintenance, aquatics, summer camps, and golf courses.



The City of Davenport has over 46,000 trees throughout the city, with a majority in parks. With this many trees, the carbon dioxide absorption is about 38 million pounds!



Employee Spotlight



BILLY FISHER

Parks Manager

In celebration of National Park and Recreation Month, meet Billy Fisher - Davenport's Parks Manager. Fisher oversees the maintenance of municipal buildings and grounds, sports fields, and coordinates the grounds staff for all parks, including over 50 named parks, 27 baseball fields, 13 soccer fields, 1 rugby pitch, pickleball, and tennis courts. He is frequently behind the scenes at larger community events to ensure event setup and park requirements are fulfilled. Fisher's career with the City highlights the endless options for growth.

In 2010, he started as a Permit Technician, reviewing plans and issuing permits for the building department. Fisher then became an Urban Conservationist, managing the City's stormwater and creek projects.

"My favorite part of Parks is that each day presents a unique experience. One day may involve setting up for a special event along the riverfront, and the next day may involve digging the foundation for a new playground. The staff is a supportive team that shares laughter, tears, and works together to solve park issues. One of my favorite memories was from one of our appreciation lunches. We decided to play a game called "dunk the manager". Everyone had the opportunity to share something about themselves that the rest of us may not know. If someone shared something about themselves, even as simple as their middle name, they got to dump a bucket of ice-cold water on the manager's head. It just so happened that I was the manager."

QC CORPORATE GAMES MEDAL WINNERS

The City of Davenport continued its streak of earning medals in July!

City staff participated in the Golf 4 Person Scramble taking 2nd place in the Co-Ed category and 3rd Place in the men's category. The Co-Ed team was Becky Woolam, Matt Woolam, Layken Bytner, and Randy Schumacher. The Men's team was Adam Holland, Brad Carter, Rob Larson, and Tom Linehan.

James Salzer represented the City at the Basketball Shooting competition, taking 4th place in the Men's 50+ category.

Two City teams participated in the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament taking 2nd and 5th place. The teams were made up of AK Agee, Moe Ahmed, Jeremiah Crawford, Jarian Dunlap, Cole Kemper, Djabril McNabb, Nik Norton, and Mike Wise.

At the last event of the summer, the City's Spikeball team took 1st place. The team was made up of AmeriCorps members Jarian Dunlap and Moe Ahmed.



Project Highlights:

Library Enhancements | Fairmount Community Center

The Fairmount Community Center will include 4,500 square feet of usable space with the ability to accommodate 359 occupants. This building will contain a half-court style gym for introductory sports, drop-in activities, and a wide range of other functions. A unique feature of the building includes exterior material that allows for the showing of outdoor movies for the community to enjoy.

The City of Davenport's Parks and Recreation Department will manage and program the Community Center. This space will be available for the community to utilize and rent on weekends for various events. The City of Davenport held a Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 11. Construction will now begin and is anticipated to conclude in the Spring of 2024.



ARPA Continued



Planning & Development

Creating Places

Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn | Staff is in the process of organizing the next phase of public input with Sasaki

Cork Hill, Van Buren, and Herrington Multi-Sport Courts | Project will be rebid in the fall of 2023

Emeis Adaptive and Inclusive Playground | The site preparation is anticipated to go through the City's bidding process during the month of September

Cork Hill Splashpad | Project engineering plans and specifications are under final review by City staff and contracted engineers

Dohse Splashpad | City Council approved the plans and specifications for the Dohse Splashpad. Staff will move forward with the bidding process

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 all necessary permits have been submitted to all regulatory agencies. Once those permits have been received, the plans will be finalized and ready for bid



Construction

Neighborhood Reinvestment

DREAMPlus | Forty-seven projects have now been awarded, with 28 already complete or with work underway

Library Enhancements

Fairmount Community Center | The Fairmount Community Center held a groundbreaking ceremony on July 11, 2023. Construction will now begin and is expected to conclude in the Spring of 2024

Creating Places

Public Wi-Fi Hot Spots | Staff has completed testing for five locations. Promotional material and a full launch is anticipated in August of 2023



Completed

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

Creating Places | Neighborhood Parks-Play

Whalen Playground | June 2023

Harbor Road Playground | December 2022

Lafayette Playground | December 2022

Emeis Ninja Warrior Playground | June 2023

Neighborhood Reinvestment

Regional Transitional Housing



Dohse Park Splash and Play Concept

NOW AVAILABLE:

Wi-Fi

Community Wi-Fi allows...

- Access to important online resources
- Access to obtain a free Davenport Public Library Card
- Diversifying your office space



This project is being supported in whole or in part, by the federal award number SLFRP1078 awarded to The City of Davenport by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

davenportiowa.com/parkimprovements

SCAN ME!





Library updates:

Early Literacy Program

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Participation

As of June 2023, the program had 1,435 participants. The library has maintained its push for continual community engagement and new registrations. One example of this is the creation of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Newsletter and Pinterest page.

Library Social Worker

Between April 2023 through June 2023, the Library Social Worker assisted 615 people.

Walk-ins were the most utilized method for accessing the services of the Library Social Worker, accounting for 303 patrons in this quarter. Notably, 62 patrons reported utilizing the Library for the first time!





Library Updates



01 SAADIA FARUQI AT THE LIBRARY

Davenport Public Library partnered with Quad City Arts to bring children's book author Saadia Faruqi to the Library on July 10. Faruqi is the author of the popular children's early reader series, *Yasmin*, and other children chapter books, graphic novels, and picture books. She presented her newest picture book, *Rani's Remarkable Day*, to a dozen attendees.



02 LIBRARY IN THE PARK

Library in the Park is entering the second month of its 3rd year and will run through August 11. A partnership with the Community and Economic Development Department allowed for this amazing opportunity to support outreach efforts to meet residents where they are. Locations include Goose Creek Park, Emeis Park, Slattery Park, Fejervary Aquatic Center, Marquette Park, Annie Wittenmyer Aquatic Center, Northwest Park, and Sunderbruch Park.

This program allows residents to access library resources and knocks down the barrier of transportation by bringing the services to several spaces in the community.

03 DAVENPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY AT YOUTHFEST

Davenport Public Library was invited to participate in YouthFest at Fejervary Park on July 19. Library staff made balloon dogs for attendees to take home and were able to interact with 250 area youth.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

01 RED, WHITE & BOOM RECAP

Red, White and Boom 2023 was a success! 20,000+ community members spent the evening on the riverfront, enjoying live music from Identity Crisis, food options from 19 vendors, improv performances from Davenport Junior Theatre, bounce houses and activities in the Kid Zone, and of course, an impressive fireworks display to end the evening



02 ANNUAL GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT MEETING

The annual Good Neighbor Project meeting was held Tuesday, July 18 at St. Ambrose University. GNP attendees received updates from City staff and Davenport Police and listened to guest speaker Mark Carlson, Crime Stoppers Board member, who presented information on Crime Stoppers of the Quad Cities, how those interested can get involved, and discussed the P3 app.

To date, The Good Neighbor Project has a total of 109 neighborhoods throughout Davenport.



03 PUBLIC SAFETY YOUTH TOURS

Police Officers and Firefighters hosted participants from Stepping Stones, Adventure Camp, and other summer programs to provide station tours and educational information to hundreds of Davenport youth. Attendees had the opportunity to ask first responders questions; experience a behind-the-scenes look at public safety in Davenport; and learn about the various vehicles, tools, and technologies used to help keep our community safe.



04 DPD HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL RETIREE LUNCHEON

DPD hosted the first annual retiree luncheon with generations of officers gathering to enjoy a meal, fellowship, and learn about department updates and initiatives. Hundreds of years of service and sacrifice were all in one place to celebrate and honor one another.



05 MOVIES IN THE PARK

Families from the community and some RAGBRAI pre-ride cyclists enjoyed a spectacular night under the stars on the riverfront in LeClaire Park watching *Sing 2* at the July Movie in the Park. Approximately 125 attendees enjoyed tasty treats from food trucks and lawn games and activities before the movie.



06 #BIXBRAI RECAP

It takes a village to prepare and welcome over 50,000 visitors to our community. The City teamed up with Visit Quad Cities to ensure that the Quad-City Times Bix 7 and RAGBRAI L were a success. Over 15 organizations joined forces to make these events possible, from planning traffic patterns and public safety operations to organizing celebrations and entertainment. Staff from Administration, Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, Development and Neighborhood Services, and Public Works put in countless hours of work before and during the event, helping to make the weekend a triumph.

As part of the preparation of being the final dip site for RAGBRAI and welcoming thousands of riders and visitors to the riverfront, the City hosted a cleanup event where volunteers picked up trash from Veterans Memorial to Centennial Park.



07 DUCK CREEK RESTORATION DAY

Parks and Recreation staff hosted two pop-up community restoration days on July 8 and 13 to remove aggressive, invasive species choking out flowers and plants. Ecological restoration work is done to help an ecosystem return to a state that is closer to how it originally adapted to function. By working to support the natural functioning of the area, plant diversity is increased which in turn invites higher biodiversity of microorganisms, insects, and animals. City Horticulture staff is working to develop more community restoration days as part of the expanding Nature and Garden/Environmental Education programs.



08 JOURNEY OF HOPE SUMMER BASH

Riders participating in the annual Journey of Hope stopped for the night in Davenport and attended the Summer Bash party at Annie Wittenmyer Aquatic Center. Those stopping in Davenport are part of the North Route which began in San Francisco, CA on June 7 and will end in Washington, D.C. on August 12 - a distance of 3,680 miles! More than 100 men embark on this trip to test their limits, spread awareness, and celebrate the abilities of all people.

Throughout the journey, teams spread the message of disability awareness through local media and visit partner organizations where cyclists participate in activities with friends from the disability community at each stop.



09 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD

Volunteers with Davenport Parks and Recreation were honored at the 2023 40th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards. These awards honor exemplary service and volunteerism of individuals and organizations making a significant impact in communities. This year, in the Group Awards category, The Friends of Vander Veer was honored. In the Individual Awards category, three long-term volunteers were honored: Joyce Archibald (Horticulture at Vander Veer Botanical Park) and Connie Williams and Laura Williams (Roosevelt Community Center volunteers).

10 YOUTHFEST 2023

The annual YouthFest event welcomed several hundred children from across the region to visit with nearly 20 local organizations and City departments including the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Library, Parks and Recreation, AmeriCorps, Putnam Museum and Science Center, Niabi Zoo, Midwest Writing Center, Community Health Center, Iowa Total Care, and German American Heritage Center. Lunch was provided by Davenport Community Schools. Attendees cooled off at a water and misting station courtesy of Iowa American Water. In addition to local organizations and cooling stations, attendees also enjoyed craft activities, a petting zoo, and bounce houses.

Davenport Parks and Recreation's Environmental Education table hosted a variety of local critters (taxidermized) comparing the different types of fur (deer, beaver, and fox) as well as the similarities and differences of different skeletons (snapping turtle, snake, and bat) and learning why they adapted that way. Attendees became more familiar with some of the animals in our area that they may not always have the chance to see or interact with.

