



THE CITY OF  
**DAVENPORT**  
IOWA | USA

# City Administrator Monthly Update

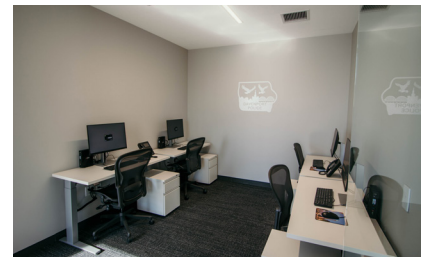
*February 2024*



## Fire Station 3

On February 8, 2024, the City of Davenport and Davenport Fire Department celebrated the opening of the new Fire Station 3 with a formal ribbon cutting. In attendance were residents, elected officials, City staff, Davenport businesses, and many more. Plans for the new Fire Station 3 began in 2017, following an operational study that indicated the City needed additional resources to support growth. It was recommended that Fire Station 3 relocate further north to allow for optimal response times. Bid packages for the architecture and construction of Fire Station 3 were awarded to OPN Architects and Tricon in the Summer of 2021 and Summer of 2022, respectively. Construction for the new fire station began in the Fall of 2022.

The new station is located at 42nd Street and Brady, and is over 18,000 square feet with a modern design that allows for safety, functionality, and community use with an emphasis on employee wellness design elements. The community room at the new fire station was dedicated to former Assistant Fire Chief Michael J. Hayman. Chief Hayman was a 33 year veteran of the Davenport Fire Department and served as the City's Fire Marshal where his dedication and commitment was instrumental to the community that he served. The new station will allow for a high level of hands-on and classroom training for your DFD and future fire academies. The Davenport Fire Department is excited to utilize this amazing facility!



## Davenport Fire Department Hazmat Class

The Davenport Fire Department hosted an 80-hour IAFF HazMat Tech Class at Central Station. Twenty-two firefighters from Davenport, Bettendorf, Muscatine, and the Rock Island Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services have been tested, both in class and in various scenarios, to receive pro board certification.

## Two Detectives Recieve Clandestine Laboratory Safety Certifications

Two Davenport Police Detectives recently received their Clandestine Laboratory Safety Certification during a weeklong Midwest Counterdrug Training Center training in Johnston, Iowa. During this OSHA compliance training, officers learned how to safely and effectively enter, assess, dismantle, and decontaminate clandestine laboratories while navigating the chemical and physical hazards associated with these types of incidents. Through classroom and practical exercises, detectives learned the latest trends and methods as well as the updated equipment and regulation information associated with clandestine laboratories.

## Five Davenport Police Officers Complete Interview & Interrogation Training

Davenport Police Officers Anh John Nguyen, Riley McIntyre, Mason Laud, Joshua Derner, and Mark Rappel completed the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center’s Interview and Interrogation course, adding five officers to the Davenport Police Department’s team of skilled investigators. This week-long course taught officers the tools and techniques needed to enhance their ability to gain information and determine the truth about criminal activity through the interview and interrogation process. Through classroom and hands-on exercises, officers learned specialized skills that enable detection of deception during non-verbal and verbal communication.



### Welcoming Neighborhood

## Hope At The BRICK House Friday Night Gathering with Evolution Power Tools

Isn't it wonderful when neighbors become friends? One of the most rewarding parts of The Good Neighbor Project is watching natural relationships form amongst groups. As new members of GNP, Evolution Power Tools has made an impression by quickly getting involved in the community. From sponsoring Cops & Cocoa last December to providing and serving a meal to children and families at Hope at the BRICK House during their most recent Friday Night Gathering, this group has been an amazing addition to The Good Neighbor Project.

“We’d like to recognize and thank Good Neighbor Project partner, Evolution Power Tools, for attending the most recent Friday Night Gathering and providing a meal to the community.” – Sergeant Andrew Harris.



Visit [davenportiowa.com/GNP](http://davenportiowa.com/GNP) to learn more and sign up today.



### Vibrant Region

## Davenport Parks & Recreation Celebrates New Ice Rink at The River’s Edge

The City celebrated the opening of a second ice rink at the River’s Edge on February 24 with remarks by Quad City Hockey Association President Todd Mahoney, Parks and Recreation Director Chad Dyson, and Mayor Mike Matson. Following the remarks, Mayor Matson dropped the puck to kick off the next game play. The second ice rink opened in early January as part of a soft launch in partnership with the Quad City Hockey Association’s league schedule. The official opening was in conjunction with the Blue Alumni Game.





## Watershed Management Plan Development

The City of Davenport entered into a 50/50 cost-share agreement with the Corps of Engineers to develop a Watershed Management Plan last year. Now, a year later, Phase 1 is complete. The phase examined and assimilated existing hydraulic and stormwater management plans and studies, watershed and water quality data, and outlined information gaps, technical data needs, and estimated costs for further data collection. With Phase 1 complete, the project is now moving toward developing a scope and agreement for Phase 2. Work under Phase 2 data gathering will likely occur in 2025, with final reporting and a complete plan in 2026. Once complete, the comprehensive plan will serve as a valuable tool to support project prioritization well into the future.

## 2023 Streets Recap

Investment in major roads and neighborhood streets is resulting in Better Roads Ahead Davenport! The following projects were completed in 2023:

- With the exception of sidewalks, all phases of the East 53rd Street reconstruction project between Brady Street and Elmore Circle were completed
- Improved the intersection of West Central Park Avenue and Hickory Grove Road
- Resurfaced West Locust Street from Marquette Street to Division Street
- Resurfaced East Central Park Avenue between Brady Street and Pershing Avenue and improved the intersection at Farnam Street
- Made intersection improvements at Eastern Avenue and East Locust Street
- Reconstructed Clark Street from West 11th Street to West 13th Street
- Reconstructed West 36th Street from Division Street to Pacific Street
- Reconstructed Mound Street from East Locust Street to Elm Street

Many other neighborhood streets were resurfaced or reconstructed with contracts and in-house resources. To name a few:

- Arlington Avenue | East 29th Street to Garfield Street
- Lorton Avenue | East Pleasant Street to East High Street
- McKinley Avenue and South Elmwood Avenue Intersection
- Scott Street at West 12th Street
- Telegraph Road | Wisconsin Avenue to Utah Avenue
- West 1st Street | Division Street west to the railroad tracks

For a comprehensive list, visit:

<https://www.davenportiowa.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=6481456&pageId=20104496>





## Legislative Updates

The City’s legislative packet was approved by the City Council in January and included the following topics of interest for the 2024 Iowa Legislative session: Tax Increment Financing, Tax Credit Programs, Automated Traffic Enforcement Cameras, Tax Reform Implications, Building and Development Codes, and Public Safety Initiatives. City staff has had a significant presence at the State Capitol over the past several weeks providing public testimony in subcommittee hearings on legislation that would impact our community.

HF2531 was introduced by Representative Mike Vondran in collaboration with City staff. This legislation concerns nuisances at adult cabarets and would address the substantial crime, disorder, and nuisances that our law enforcement has been dealing with related to these properties such as shootings, fights, large crowds, and even a homicide. The bill received support by the Iowa League of Cities, Metro Coalition, and others, and passed unanimously in both subcommittee and committee.

HF2555 was also introduced by Representative Mike Vondran in collaboration with City staff. This legislation is for minimum bonds for certain gun crimes. As the City continues to address violent gun crime, this would be an additional tool to keep the most violent offenders off of the street. It is not unusual that these individuals are bonding out quickly and violently reoffending prior to their court date and sentencing. This proposal would require higher bonds for those violent offenders to address that period of time and to lessen the chance for violent re-offense in our community during that time. This bill passed out of subcommittee and committee and is now eligible for floor debate.

Concerning Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) cameras, there was another legislative push to completely prohibit communities from utilizing these highly effective enforcement tools. Police Chief Jeff Bladel and senior members of his command staff attended numerous subcommittee hearings to educate legislators in both the House and Senate on the importance of regulating these cameras and not completely banning them. Chief Bladel highlighted the consistent and judicious use of our ATE program and emphasized its role in reducing crashes and enhancing safety. City staff will continue to closely monitor and engage in this public safety initiative.



## Davenport Police Chief Serves as Panelist at Iowa Police Chief’s Association Recruitment and Retention Event

Davenport Police Chief Jeff Bladel served as a panelist during a February Iowa Chiefs of Police Association event. Chief Bladel was joined by law enforcement executive panelists from West Des Moines, Ames, Muscatine, Waukee, Atlantic, and Van Meter. This event brought together personnel from agencies throughout the state to discuss recruitment and retention challenges that law enforcement nationwide are facing and share strategies, programs, and initiatives that modern agencies are utilizing.





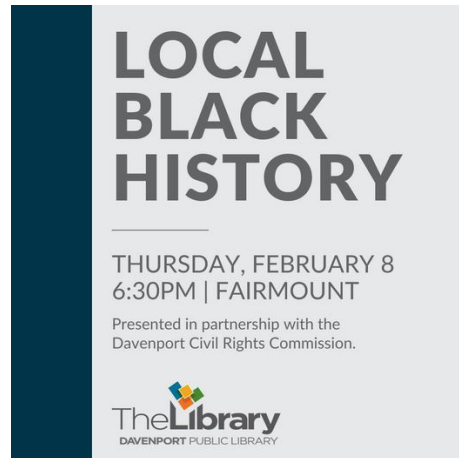
## Black History Month

Black History Month 2024 was full of opportunities for the Davenport Public Library and its patrons to celebrate Black history. The Library featured book displays, hosted programs with community partners, and created a reading challenge for the month. It is Davenport Public Library’s mission to connect a diverse community to resources that educate, enrich, and entertain. Black History Month 2024 was a perfect example of fulfilling that mission.

The Library’s Black History Month reading challenge invited patrons to learn more about Black history, celebrate Black authors and illustrators, and explore Black history through the arts. The activities suggested by this challenge were to choose a book to read by a Black author/illustrator, read a biography about a Black musician, and research a Black visual artist. When patrons logged their reading and activities throughout the month, they earned badges and tickets to enter into our prize drawings.

To go along with the Library’s Black History Month Reading Challenge, all three library locations had book displays titled “African Americans and the Arts”. These displays showcased novels, biographies, children’s books, music, and movies that all honored Black artists. The diversity in content in these displays was kept in mind to promote the consumption of the materials to as many patrons as possible.

The Library hosted two programs with community partners focusing on Black history. The first program, “Black History: Local Historical Figures,” was presented in partnership with the Davenport Civil Rights Commission. This program’s goal was to focus on how Black history has affected the Quad Cities as well as the prominent Black historical figures who have ties to the area. The second program, “Davenport Black Voices: A Worthy Story,” was in collaboration with the NAACP and the MLK Center and delved into the migration and history of Black families in the Quad Cities Area.



# ARPA Updates

Proud  
ARPA  
Project

## Featured Project Highlight: Duck Creek Sewer

Work on the Duck Creek Sewer Project will begin in late February/early March. The Duck Creek Sewer Project will connect the western boundaries of Davenport with the current collection system in compliance with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The project will install new sanitary sewer pipes from Hickory Grove Road to I-280 and abandon the current wastewater treatment lagoon just off of I-280 near West Lake Park.

The first phase of this project includes tree clearing and preparatory construction work which will require the closure of the Duck Creek Recreational Trail from Pine Street to Hickory Grove Road for public safety. The tree clearing will be completed by late March and will be followed with tunneling work to install a new section of pipe under Hickory Grove Road.

The entire project will have multiple phases with the estimated completion date for the project being late CY 2025/early 2026.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

**Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn** | Sasaki has started developing the construction documentation. City staff continues to support the project team in this undertaking.

**Cork Hill, Van Buren, & Herrington Multi-Sport Courts** | A construction groundbreaking is scheduled to commence in April 2024 with construction anticipated to begin during Spring 2024.

**Cork Hill Splashpad** | On February 28, 2024, Davenport City Council awarded the Cork Hill Splashpad to Haggerty Construction.

**Duck Creek Sewer** | The first phase of this project is set to kick off in late February / early March with tree clearing and preparatory construction work which will require the closure of the Duck Creek Recreational Trail from Pine Street to Hickory Grove Road for public safety. The tree clearing will be completed by late March and will be followed with tunneling work to install a new section of pipe under Hickory Grove Road.

**Multi-Modal N/S Path** | Final plans are completed and the majority of the property acquisition activities are anticipated to conclude in the upcoming months.

**Flood Mitigation Stage 22** | Construction has progressed through River Heritage Park and moved into E. River Drive. Traffic has been reduced to one lane in each direction to allow for the installation of the new storm sewer system along River Drive, from Carey Ave to Federal Street. Work on this project is expected to continue through May 2024.

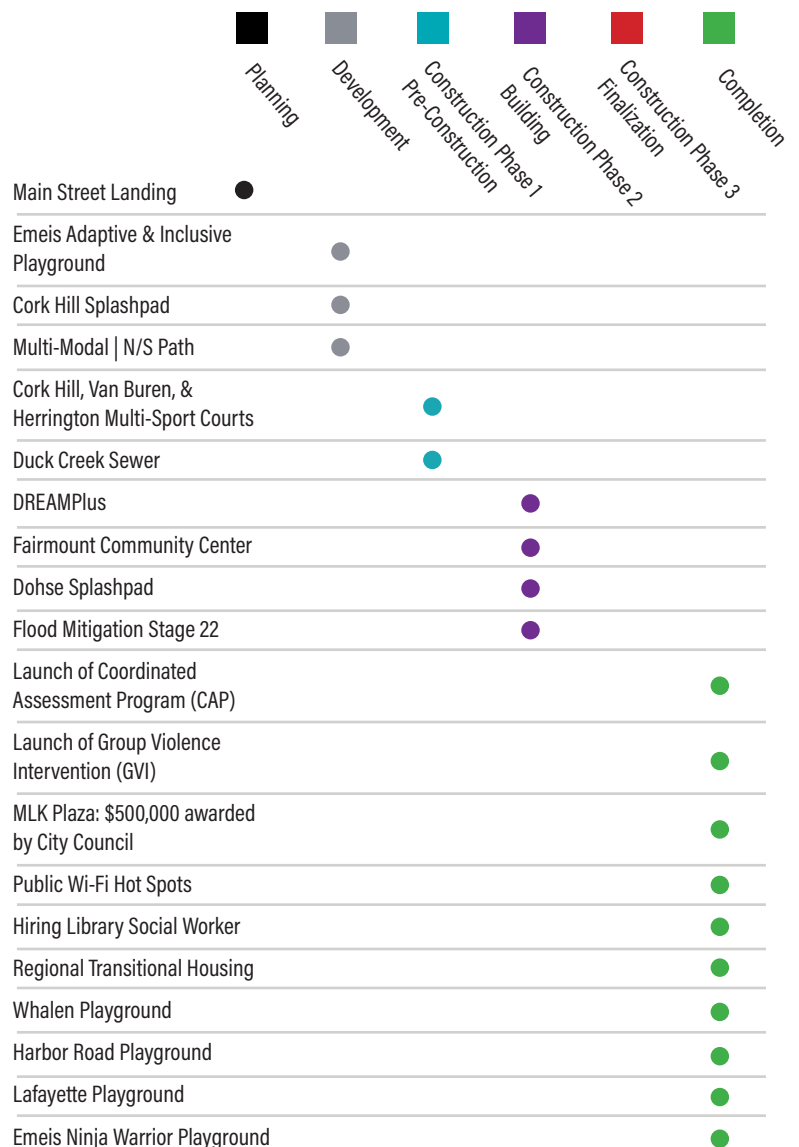
**Emeis Adaptive & Inclusive Playground** | City staff is working with Play Pro Recreation to revise the play equipment layout to allow for optimal opportunities within the proposed site plan. Once the layout is finalized, final preparations for the project bid will be made to the plans and specifications.

**Fairmount Community Center** | Construction is in full swing for the Fairmount Community Center. The building's exterior and interior block walls are in place with interior slabs and rough-ins completed. The site now has permanent electrical and site work utilities installed.

**DREAMPlus** | 47 projects have now been awarded, with 35 already complete or with work underway.

**Dohse Splashpad** | Splash equipment was delivered, and Play equipment is currently in fabrication. Site construction will continue as weather allows.

## PROJECT PROGRESS





# Community Engagement

## Scouts Go on Adventure at Davenport Police Department

In mid-February, over 15 youth from local scout troops attended presentations and trainings as well as a tour of the Davenport Police Department. The adventure session was led by Officer Kevin Carver and Crime Scent Technicians Lindsey Padalik and Mitch Morley. Scouts learned how a variety of forensics applications are used to help solve crimes. This adventure at the Davenport Police Department was aimed at furthering scouts' knowledge of the criminal justice system while working toward earning their merit badge.



## Davenport Police Help Celebrate Individuals with Special Needs at Night to Shine Event

Fifteen members of the DPD, both active and retired, helped celebrate and ensure the safety of individuals with special needs at the QC Night to Shine event. This unforgettable prom night experience included a red-carpet entrance, limousine rides, dancing, karaoke, gifts, a catered dinner, a respite room for parents and caregivers, and a crowning ceremony for every guest. Paw Patrol's Chase and Davenport Fire Department's Sparky even helped guests to enjoy the evening.



## Davenport Police and Fire Support Big Brothers Big Sisters

In mid-February, Davenport Police and Fire Departments partnered up with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley by taking part in the "Big for a Day" and Putt-A-Round events. Staff visited Harrison Elementary School where they were paired up for a "power lunch" and the opportunity to engage with students about how their school year is going, hobbies, and future career aspirations.

In addition, twelve Davenport Police and Fire personnel continued their support of Big Brothers Big Sisters by participating in the 19th Annual Putt-A-Round fundraiser. This year, the Davenport Fire Department took home the Quad City First Responders Challenge first-place trophy! These wonderful experiences are part of the ongoing partnership the City has with community partners to support youth mentoring and invest in the future of our community.





## Coffee with a Cop at Silvercrest Apartment

Davenport Police and residents of Silvercrest Garner Senior Living met for coffee and conversation at the annual Coffee with a Cop event on Thursday, February 29. The hour-long gathering provided local law enforcement the opportunity to answer questions, address concerns, and uphold a level of trust with residents. In addition to senior living facilities, Davenport Police visit a variety of local sites each year for coffee and conversations including St. Ambrose University, Hy-Vee, Donuts & More, 392 Café, and others. The dedication police officers have to this initiative is remarkable and we look forward to the continued success of this event for years to come.



## The Davenport Pulse Statistics

Since the launch of The Davenport Pulse podcast in October of 2021, 54 published episodes have received a total of 5,266 downloads. Top episodes include the “*Mother’s Day Special with the Dorton Family*” and “*Sergeant Koepke & the K-9 Unit*”. With a variety of topics covered and guests hosted, there is something for everyone to tune in to. The addition of The Davenport Pulse has provided hosts a fun platform to share, story-tell, educate, and entertain a wide-ranging audience. Find all available episodes online at: [davenportiowa.buzzsprout.com](https://davenportiowa.buzzsprout.com)



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**5,266 Total Downloads** ↓

**Top Episodes:** ★

***Mother’s Day Special with the Dorton Family***  
***Sergeant Koepke & the K-9 Unit***