

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020

CITY OF DAVENPORT

# City Administrator Update



*Celebrate Success*

# 974

# Verified

The total number of views of all live and on demand media since January 1, 2020 via Granicus.

If you see a verified badge on a Page or profile, it means that Facebook confirmed that this is the authentic Page or profile for this public figure, media company or brand. All 5 City pages have been verified.



## Communications Update

Implementation of an enhanced communications strategy is one of the priority areas of the City Administrator's workplan. The City's cross-departmental communications team has been working with Mindfire Communications on two parallel plans to enhance the City's strategic communications. The first is the implementation of a social media strategy plan to increase the City's online presence and engagement. The second is the creation of a public relations plan to manage media messaging so that positive sentiment is created and maintained.

In addition, the City unveiled two unique campaigns this spring that center on flood preparedness and road construction. Be Prepared Davenport was launched in February to assist residents and businesses with flood preparation and information. Better Roads Ahead will formally launch in May to promote the significant amount of street and

sewer repairs passed in the FY21 budget, and to provide messaging on traffic changes and detours caused by the work.

While these projects have continued to progress, the communications team pivoted in March to focus efforts on the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that citizens had the appropriate information on changes to City services. The City also partnered with Scott County Health Department and Scott County Emergency Management to share vital information regarding social distancing and ways to flatten the curve during COVID-19. In the fast paced environment when information was changing hourly, the City's communications team worked in lockstep to ensure accurate and timely information was being shared with our citizens.

**[WWW.BEPREPAREDDAVENPORT.COM](http://WWW.BEPREPAREDDAVENPORT.COM)**  
**[WWW.BETTERROADSDAVENPORT.COM](http://WWW.BETTERROADSDAVENPORT.COM)**

# FY21 Budget

The FY 2021 budget was formally adopted by City Council on March 25. Staff is preparing the FY 2021 budget document, which will be submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) in May for review of the Distinguished Budget Award. Below are highlights of the FY 2021 budget:

- Complies with City Council policy for reserve and liquidity targets, while maintaining the tax levy rate (\$16.78/\$1,000 taxable valuation)
- Development of the Public Safety Analytics Division
- Addition of a Public Safety Business Administrator will allow sworn personnel to focus on community-facing public safety initiatives
- Increased personnel for neighborhood services
- Additional cyber security
- Continuing increase to funding for street network projects (\$11.27million)
- \$28.3 million for street and sewer projects
- \$1.9 million for projects to support public safety services

Finance staff continues to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on the FY 2020 budget and its potential impacts to the FY 2021 budget.

## \$28 Million

Street network and sewer collections system

## 964

Manholes scheduled to be rehabilitated

## 41

Neighborhood streets scheduled to receive work

## 26

Major roadways scheduled to receive work

## 47.3%

Increase in non-grant street maintenance CIP funding from FY 2019

# City of Davenport Response to COVID-19

## HUMAN RESOURCES WELCOMES, ADAPTS

Human Resources has adapted some of its processes quickly due to coronavirus while welcoming 48 new employees to the City of Davenport in the first quarter.

Numerous recruitments for critical personnel are underway including police officer, firefighter/engineer and numerous positions in the Public Works Department. Positions that are considered essential are still required to come in for interviews but follow social distancing guidelines.

Interviews for other positions, like seasonal jobs at the Parks and Recreation Department pools, have been conducted through the video conference application Zoom.

The Fire Department is testing for Engineer positions which has required creative thinking, too. The River's Edge was used as a testing location due to space. Instead of using outside proctors, those tasks have been done by City employees.

## CPED READY TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY

Community Planning and Economic Development has taken steps to assist businesses in the sudden economic downturn brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Deferring payments 90 days for housing and small business loans.
- Providing ongoing online updates on business assistance available during COVID-19
- Assisting with online list of retailers/restaurants still open for curbside/delivery business
- Preparing for additional Federal funding to the City to help small businesses retain employees
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program



# PUBLIC SAFETY ADJUSTS TO CORONAVIRUS

Davenport Police and Fire have changed their response processes to keep their personnel and citizens safe while continuing to provide public safety services.

The Police Department lobby and community room are closed to public access. The Fire Department has limited public access to its buildings, postponed station tours, commercial inspections, and child safety seat check events.

How firefighters and police officers respond has also changed in this social distancing climate. Police are limiting personal contact by increasing officers' use of phone contact for non-emergency public safety calls and incidents. Officers make contact with citizens outside of residences and other buildings if/when possible, and make contact with nursing home staff outside the facility if they receive a call there.

In-person interviews are limited and phone interviews are conducted when possible. On-line reporting has also increased. Officers communicate with SECC dispatchers when they are being sent to a location with known or suspected COVID-related issues.

Firefighters have changed their response tactics —especially with EMS calls. Everything from the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn, to some of the medical treatments given, and to how firefighters interact with the patients have changed. Davenport Fire has stressed proper social distancing, good housekeeping around the stations and equipment, and wearing appropriate protective equipment when interacting with others.





## IT RESPONDS TO CORONAVIRUS NEEDS

Along with getting the new media equipment up and running in the City Council Chambers, IT staff has been busy supporting employees who are working from home due to the coronavirus.

IT has provided virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) that provides a secure environment for staff to access City applications with any device. Either in the office or working remotely, staff can access City systems to perform their jobs.

City Council has utilized the GoToMeeting application in conjunction with the Council Chamber AV system to provide public transparency for Council meetings while adhering to the restriction of meetings with 10 or fewer people. Meeting participants are able to perform all needed duties as if everyone is in the same room. The entire process is open to the public for comment, is streamed live from the City's website, and recorded for later viewing. Views of the live stream of the Council meetings rose sharply after the public couldn't attend meetings due to social distancing requirements.



# FLOOD PREPARATION AND CONSULTANT RFP

As part of the City's enhanced communications strategy, [beprepareddavenport.com](http://beprepareddavenport.com) was created as a resource for Mississippi River flooding information, ranging from the City response to flood insurance to recommendations for homeowners and businesses on how to protect their property.

City Council and Mayor Mike Matson held a work session on Feb. 22 to discuss the objectives for a Request For Proposals to identify flood risk reduction measures that might be implemented in the future.

On Feb. 29, the City hosted its LEAP into Flood Preparation event to help connect affected homeowners and business with information, vendors, and resources to prevent flood damage. City staff was on-hand to answer questions from the public.

Operational considerations, climate trends, an open riverfront, feasibility, and downstream impacts were at the heart of the conversation that resulted in direction for the RFP. The deadline for submission is May 1.

## LEAP EVENT AND BOOTH



# GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT

The Good Neighbor Project (GNP) is a unique partnership between Davenport Police and the City's Community and Economic Development Department. Launched in February 2020, the GNP is gaining momentum despite having to cancel March and April neighborhood presentations due to COVID-19.

Davenport Police Sgt. Andrew Harris and Community Planning's Nevada Lemke met with John Border from the Davenport Community Schools Poverty Task Force to partner with the Good Neighbor Project and to get parents involved. By partnering with the DCSD, the GNP will be able to meet neighbors in school meetings and have a presence at Unpack Your Backpack as well as other family events in the schools.

The first Good Neighbor Project meeting at the Davenport Police Department Community Room on March 10 had 30 attendees. There were a lot of great discussions about concerns within the neighborhoods, ideas on how to increase engagement, and different approaches that some neighborhoods were already taking to work toward solutions. Some of the neighborhood leaders exchanged information to co-host events.

The next scheduled Good Neighbor Project meeting will be June 9 at the Rogalski Center at 6 p.m., and is still scheduled to take place, depending on COVID-19 developments.





## CORRIDOR CLEANUP

Public Works hosted the Corridor Cleanup on March 21 and volunteers collected 140 bags of litter as well as several larger items from several Davenport roadways.

Along with the bags of litter, the teams of volunteers also removed a mattress, 12 tires, arrows, a catalytic converter, a license plate, a \$50 bill, a Sam's Club card, hub caps, other various car parts, and DVDs. The license plate and membership card were to be returned to their owners. Volunteers encountered a bio-hazard bag that had to be later retrieved by City staff using proper procedures.

These cleanup events help to beautify Davenport and keep litter and junk out of our waterways.



## OSCAR MEYER DEMOLITION STARTS

The demolition contractor started in March working in phases to disconnect utilities as the former Kraft Heinz plant at 1337 West 2nd St. is taken down. Production at the plant ended in September 2018 as the new plant in northwest Davenport went opened for production. The demolition is required as part of Kraft's economic development with the City.






## CENSUS UPDATE

During the first quarter of 2020, Davenport's Complete Count Committee, led by Alderwoman Marion Meginnis, was very active, meeting monthly. Alderwoman Meginnis was also very busy reaching out to agencies like United Way that can help get out information to its clients, as well as a number of landlords and seeking other avenues to distribute information, like a booth at Bald Eagle Days.

A number of initiatives were disrupted by the COVID-19 response, including a St. Patrick's Day Parade entry, door hanging in low response neighborhoods, and an awareness partnership with the schools. The Census Bureau has delayed some key deadlines that will allow door hanger distribution to be done while the partnership with the schools is being reworked.

As of April 27, Davenport's response to the Census is currently 59.6 percent, slightly behind the State of Iowa response of 61.1 percent, according to the Census Bureau.



**United States<sup>®</sup> Census 2020**

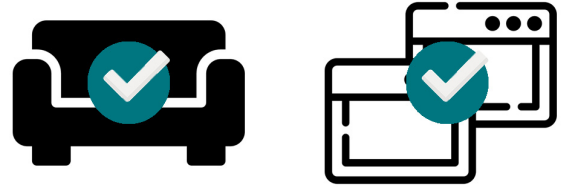
### Everybody Counts!

- The Census is here. Your response to the Census helps determine how \$675 billion is distributed for programs like SNAP, Section 8 vouchers, heating assistance, and street repairs.
- Your privacy and personal information are well protected by law and stringent guidelines established for Census workers.
- The Census requires your participation. It's in the Constitution!
- Everyone living in Davenport counts! Everyone in your household from youngest to oldest!

**WE COUNT! DAVENPORT CENSUS 2020**

## Be Counted!

### FROM YOUR COUCH



United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census 2020**



United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census 2020**

## Why the Census matters!



**WE COUNT! DAVENPORT CENSUS 2020**

They grow up so fast.

Now's your chance to shape

## their future.



United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census 2020**

# FREIGHT HOUSE DECK REPLACEMENT



The Freight House deck replacement project, budgeted at \$308,000, is expected to be completed this month. The project replaces the wood deck and tubular railing with a long-lasting composite decking and nautical themed galvanized cabling railing system. Once

completed, an unveiling will be scheduled as the public is expected to flock to and enjoy the beautiful river view scenery as social distancing fades and the weather warms.

## HOUSING SURVEY COMPLETED

The City of Davenport, through a housing needs assessment study done in tandem with Moline and Rock Island, showed that Davenport is challenged by aging housing rental stock and a high eviction rate. The housing needs assessment is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for cities that use federal entitlements. Though not a formal plan, public input was gathered through three focus group meetings, two webinars and three public meetings as well as a survey that was open from November until early April.

The shared needs that were identified included:

- Unmet housing needs for many households (existing households with a housing problem, especially cost-burdened households)
- High rate of need for rental/multi-family housing
- Need for homeless housing
- Disproportionate housing needs
- Need to rehabilitate or redevelop existing housing

Recommendations to the three cities included:

- Encourage low and moderate housing
- Encourage rental/multi-family housing development/rehab
- Encourage development of vacant and underdeveloped parcels
- Encourage support for homeless housing and services
- Encourage additional production of housing units suitable for special needs populations



# DAVENPORT DREAM PROJECTS BEING COMPLETED

The goal of The Davenport DREAM Project is to build vibrant spaces within the City of Davenport, all while engaging and building a more connected community. The second round of the Davenport DREAM Project will launch May 15, 2020 with minor changes to the program. The DREAM Project area remains the same, however the award amount has changed to \$20,000 for both new and existing homeowners. More information is available at [www.davenportdreamproject.com](http://www.davenportdreamproject.com).

**50 homes**

Fifty projects were selected for round one of the Davenport Dream Project.

**2 completed**

**5 in progress**

22 projects have gone to contract but not yet started rehab

20 projects are waiting to go to contract (ready to sign, but on hold due to COVID-19)

1 project still needs to select contractor (homeowner was in the hospital)



## DREAM PROJECT IN ACTION

The Davenport DREAM Project made Samantha Yeager-Walrath and Logan Walrath's dream house a little dreamier.

The program was created to assist residents who live in some of the City's challenged neighborhoods with grants for home renovations. Projects have included new siding and windows, and interior work like HVAC and electrical systems.

The Walraths wanted an older house -- preferably built before the 1940s. They found their dream house, built-in 1900, on East 14th Street. Despite being what they were looking for, it came with some issues, namely bad floors on the first floor, an outdated furnace, bad front sidewalk, and dilapidated garage. Along came the DREAM Project to help solve these problems. The Walraths were eligible as new homeowners and got approved. "It was pretty easy overall," Samantha said.

The process includes finding contractors and getting bids that have to be submitted to the City for approval. The couple chose Reed Construction. "They were awesome to work with," Samantha said.

With three pets and hopes of being foster parents, The Walrath's knew floors were important. They now have hardwood floors along with a new furnace and central air conditioning. The garage has been shored up and the sidewalk is repaired. All the work was funded through the DREAM Project.



# NHS, LEGAL AND PUBLIC WORKS TEAM TO REMOVE TIRE NUISANCE

Neighborhood Services, along with Legal and Public Works, worked together to remove thousands of tires from a property in west Davenport.

Neighborhood Services and Legal worked for months to get an order through the Courts to remove the tires. In February, once the Courts’ permission was allowed, Public Works’ Solid Waste employees assisted in removing the tires.



**IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2020, NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES CLOSED OUT 1,950 NUISANCE COMPLAINTS WITH NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF THOSE BEING SNOW ABATEMENTS IN JANUARY.**

**DEBRIS INSPECTIONS, CONTRIBUTED TO ONE-THIRD OF NUISANCES CLOSED OUT, THE 660 COMPLAINTS BROKEN DOWN BY WARD ARE:**

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SEVENTH	EIGHTH
52	35	257	104	118	6	67	21

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUPS TOTALED 247, OR 13 NEARLY PERCENT OF COMPLAINTS CLOSED IN THE FIRST QUARTER. BROKEN DOWN BY WARD, THEY ARE:**

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SEVENTH	EIGHTH
29	9	90	31	61	3	16	8

**COMPLAINTS CLOSED OVER VEHICLE ISSUES IN THE FIRST QUARTER TOTALED 239 OR 12 PERCENT OF NUISANCES. THOSE COMPLAINTS BY WARD ARE:**

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SEVENTH	EIGHTH
32	14	81	32	34	6	14	26



# URBAN HOMESTEAD HOUSES NEAR COMPLETION; MORE ON THE WAY

Community Planning and Economic Development wants to increase the volume of homes for resale in its Urban Homestead program and ultimately have multiple projects going on at the same time, but in different stages.

As the first quarter of 2020 ended, two home rehabilitations are nearly complete, and CPED is accepting purchase applications until April 30. The houses are located at 1412 West 14th St. and 1619 West Pleasant St.

Two additional houses will begin rehab work soon. A contract for the rehabilitation of 503 West 15th St. was awarded on the Council's second cycle in April with work to start in early May and a completion goal of four months. The house at 637 Oak St. was recently acquired and an RFP for rehabilitation could go out shortly.

