



City Administrator Update

Celebrate Success

July 2020

Welcoming Neighborhoods

GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT GETS GOOD MOMENTUM

Held on June 18 at St. Ambrose University, the second quarterly Good Neighbor Project meeting had 40 attendees and was filled with plenty of positive engagement and participation.

Ahead of the meeting, there were 24 registered Good Neighbors neighborhoods but has since jumped to 38! The quarterly meeting received strong media attention with WHBF-TV and the Quad-City Times both providing stories. Davenport Police Sgt. Andrew Harris and Community Economic Development's Nevada Lemke also appeared on the Living Local segment of WHBF-TV on July 9.

The City has a number of neighborhood leaders that haven't officially registered but that communicate with staff regularly. Lemke spoke to neighbors in the 10th Street and Tremont Avenue area in June and attended the Vander Veer Neighborhood meeting in March to discuss the Good Neighbor Project.

On Monday, July 13th, Davenport Police Sgt. Andrew Harris and Lemke met with West End business owners that want to start a Good Neighbor Project. This neighborhood will be the City's first GNP started by a group of small business owners who will incorporate nearby residential neighbors, too.

WELCOMING
NEIGHBORHOODS



Vibrant Region

DDP TAKES OVER DOWNTOWN MAINTENANCE

Beginning July 1, the City turned over certain downtown cleaning duties to the Downtown Davenport Partnership (DDP) through an agreement which also includes upgrading downtown lighting to LED.

In addition to the DDP's normal beautification duties of maintaining flower baskets and beds and keeping downtown sidewalks clean, responsibilities now include parking ramp cleaning, daily trash pick-up, Skybridge cleaning, pocket-park maintenance, and other ad-hoc work. This will ease some strain on Public Works which

has 63 square miles to maintain as the DDP takes care of what has become a very busy downtown in recent years.

VIBRANT
REGION



Fiscal Vitality



JUNE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT VALUATION REACHES NEARLY \$30 MILLION

Public Works Building Inspection Division issued 1,211 construction permits in June, totaling \$29.98 million in valuation. The Division issued 1,009 residential roof permits with a valuation of \$10.67 million as well as two new commercial construction permits with a valuation of \$9.58 million.

One of the commercial permits is for a warehouse-office facility on Research Parkway while the other is for the mixed commercial and residential use proposed for the green space on East 2nd Street in front of the RiverCenter.

ASBESTOS DELAYS KRAFT DEMOLITION

Progress continues on the demolition of Davenport's former Kraft plant on Rockingham Road. Contractors recently discovered unexpected asbestos in the building that has slowed the exterior demolition.

Exterior demolition will continue later this fall when asbestos removal is completed.



DAVENPORT RAIL SEES INCREASE IN TRAFFIC

More than six months into operations, Davenport Industrial Railroad reports that it has seen an increase in traffic since starting operations on Jan. 1. Sterilite remains the railroad's major customer; however, beginning in March, a company that manufactures agricultural products became a user of the transload facility as well.



The railroad has seven employees. Steve Berish, co-owner, says the company is optimistic for the future despite the economic downturn due to COVID-19. He hopes to see more growth in the second half of the year.

"We are off to a great start and love being part of the Davenport community," he said. "We look forward to continued growth. We are seeing some interest, but COVID has slowed some momentum."

High-Performing Government

DAVENPORT U POSTPONED TO 2021

The Citizen's Academy will take a break due to COVID-19. The spring start of the program was postponed with a hoped-for start in the fall, but as a precautionary measure Davenport U is on hold as staff determines how to proceed. The program explains how City government works. Participants learn about public safety including use of force and the inner workings of a firehouse, budgeting, economic development, parks, libraries, and infrastructure.



Sustainable Infrastructure

SUSTAINABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE



BIG OR SMALL, DAVENPORT IS DOING THEM ALL (STREETS, THAT IS)

While large street projects like East 53rd Street and Division Street have received the most notice this construction season, smaller neighborhood projects have also been ongoing.

Work on Division Street from 5th to 9th Street started in July, but resurfacing on West 46th Street between Warren and Marquette streets also began.

Some smaller neighborhood projects have been completed. A one-block stretch of Elmwood Avenue, from 61st to 62nd Streets, is done, while asphalt resurfacing on West 11th Street from Wisconsin Avenue to Hidden Valley Drive is near completion. New asphalt was installed on Marquette Street between Royal Oaks Drive and West 46th Street, while West 46th Street between Scott Street and Welcome Way is near completion.

Canadian Pacific's rail crossing restoration continues with the first crossing, at Marquette Street, expected to be completed by the end of the month and good progress made at Brady Street.

The 1930s sewer Interceptor abandonment continues in the downtown area. Sewer replacement work at West 2nd Street/ Rockingham Road has been challenging due to subsurface conditions. The intersection at Marquette Street was expected to reopen in late July, while Fillmore Street, between West 2nd Street and West 3rd Street, closed July 20.



Well-Protected Community

WELL
PROTECTED
COMMUNITY



CONGRATULATIONS TO 4 NEW DAVENPORT FIREFIGHTERS

Mayor Mike Matson swore in four new Davenport firefighters at the City Council meeting on July 8: Timothy Macumber, Daniel Tharp, A.J. Petersen, and Kyle Nickels.

The firefighters began training in February, which is normally eight weeks long. Due to COVID-19, the training was condensed and the firefighters were assigned to regular 24-hour shifts in March.

