

December 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 DAVENPORT FIRE STATION 3 UPDATE

The completion of Station 3 is in sight with all of the exterior windows installed, framing and plastering completed, and casework in progress. Currently underway throughout the building is painting, flooring, and installation of the station alerting system. Next on the checklist, furniture and equipment will be delivered and installed. It is anticipated for Station 3 construction to be completed early in the new year, and a ribbon cutting will be scheduled to celebrate the opening.



## 02 DAVENPORT FIRE STAFF UPDATES

Davenport Fire recently celebrated the accomplishments of several staff members through a promotional ceremony and swearing-in event. Fourteen individuals were commended for their recent promotions. Their collective commitment is evident in the countless hours devoted to formal education pursuits and the acquisition of technical expertise essential for steering the department towards a progressive future.

Individuals recognized for promotions are:

- Captain Brent Arp
- Captain Adam Lamar
- Lieutenant Shane Carter
- Lieutenant Nicholas Armetta
- Lieutenant Michael Putnam
- Lieutenant Carter Oltman
- Engineer Padriac Dolan
- Engineer Adam Panther
- Engineer Rodrigo Montoya
- Engineer Israel Korinne
- Engineer Nickolas Ulloa
- Engineer Cory Schaekenbach
- Engineer James Swanson
- Engineer Michael Cress



Mayor Matson conducted the official swearing-in ceremony for Ryan Amidon, Wesley Foster, Chris Ploessl, and Anthony Mirr. These four firefighters, who joined the City in July 2023, underwent an intensive eight-week in-house training program. They obtained various State certifications and garnered the requisite experience to be assigned to a 24-hour shift.

Additionally, the most recent additions to the DFD family, firefighters DeGeeter, Buhman, and Woods successfully completed the DFD Recruit Academy on December 22 featuring live burn evolutions. Members started their first shifts at the end of December. These three firefighters bring fresh perspectives and skills to further enrich the department's capabilities.

## 03 DAVENPORT POLICE ATTEND VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION SUMMIT

Davenport Police attended the Bureau of Justice Assistance Violent Crime Reduction Summit. The summit was a chance for over 1,000 executive leaders and key stakeholders from Public Safety Partnership sites across the country to convene to discuss evidence-based practices aimed at increasing public safety, enhancing partnerships between the participating agencies, and reduce violent crime within their respective communities. Davenport representatives had a chance to meet with federal partners to discuss the topic of gun violence as well as learn about other community violence initiatives being implemented by peer PSP sites across the country.



## 04 DAVENPORT POLICE RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Four Probationary Police Officers, Stuart Chamberlayne, Aaron Gilliland, Xavier McClure, and Andrew Troje, completed their 16-week training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on December 15 and have entered the department's post academy training. These individuals will officially be sworn in on January 10. In the coming weeks, these Probationary Officers will enter the department's Field Training Officer (FTO) Program where they will work and learn from different Field Training Officers within the department's Patrol Division.

Two Probationary Police Officers are in the final stages of the FTO Program. Officers Daniel Lombardi and Michael Conner are completing their training serving the community in the Patrol Division.



In early January, seven recently hired Probationary Police Officers will start their 16-week basic law enforcement training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). The Iowa Law Enforcement Basic Academy consists of principles of policing, communication and life skills, legal topics, patrol procedures, investigations, and tactical skills in addition to administrative segments. Following their training at the state academy, these officers will return to the Davenport Police Department for their post-academy training before entering the FTO Program.

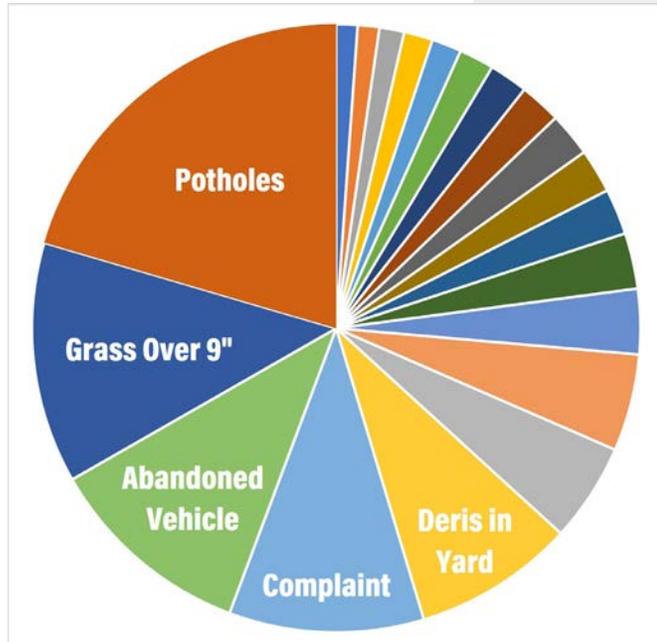


## 05 SEECLICKFIX USAGE

Davenport’s SeeClickFix platform continues to be instrumental in facilitating civic engagement with residents with a notable increase of submissions from 5,148 in 2021 — 2022 to 6,281 in 2022 — 2023. User platform preferences are evenly distributed, with 50% utilizing the website portal and 50% the mobile application.



Residents can either visit the City website and enter the request or download the free SeeClickFix app on Google Play or the App Store.



December 2022 to December 2023 SCF Request	Percentage	Requests
Pothole	20.46%	1285
Grass over 9 inches	12.82%	805
Abandoned Vehicle - Street	11.02%	692
Complaint	10.36%	651
Debris in yard	8.57%	538
Abandoned Vehicle	5.24%	329
Tree	5.16%	324
Sign - Maintenance	3.47%	218
Traffic Signal - Maintenance	2.96%	186
Code Violation	2.44%	153
Snow on Sidewalk	2.34%	147
Street Repair	2.34%	147
Missed Pick Up (Waste, Recycling, Yard, Bulk)	2.21%	139
Dead Animal	2.05%	129
Other/General Information	1.86%	117
Sign - New Request	1.58%	99
Illegal Dumping	1.53%	96

## 06 DAVENPORT STRENGTHS INSTITUTE 12TH COHORT GRADUATION

City Staff in the 12th cohort of Davenport Strengths Institute (DSI) graduated in December after completing the 12-month strengths-based leadership program. Participants included Aaron Mack from Fire; Murphy Simms, Joshua Wehde, and Alycia Fritz from Police; Noah Lamoureux, Beth Bringolf, Tirina Scott, Ryan Neipert, and Toni Castor from Public Works; Meghan Overton from CED; Matthew Cullinan from Finance; Tom Kern and Ron Perkins from IT; Mallory Bagby from Legal; and Ryan Paustian and Amy Malchodi from Parks.



Cohort 13 commences on their strengths-based journey in January 2024 bringing the total number of employees to 221 representing every city department who have either graduated or are completing this program. The International City County Management Association (ICMA) awarded their Strategic Leadership & Governance Award to DSI in 2021.



# 07 NEW RECREATION MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR DAVENPORT

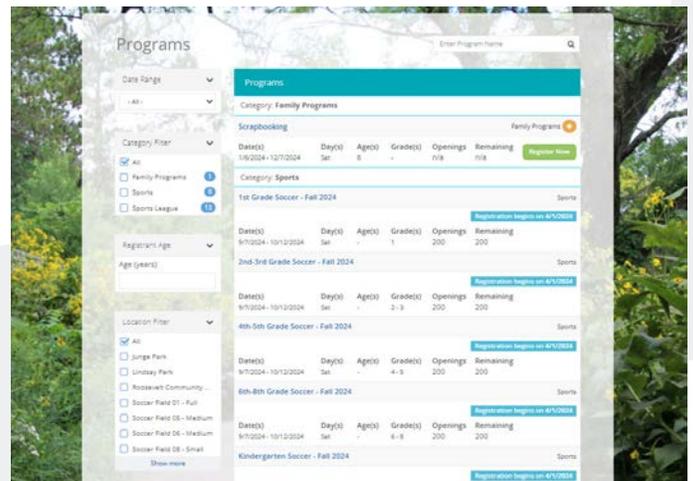
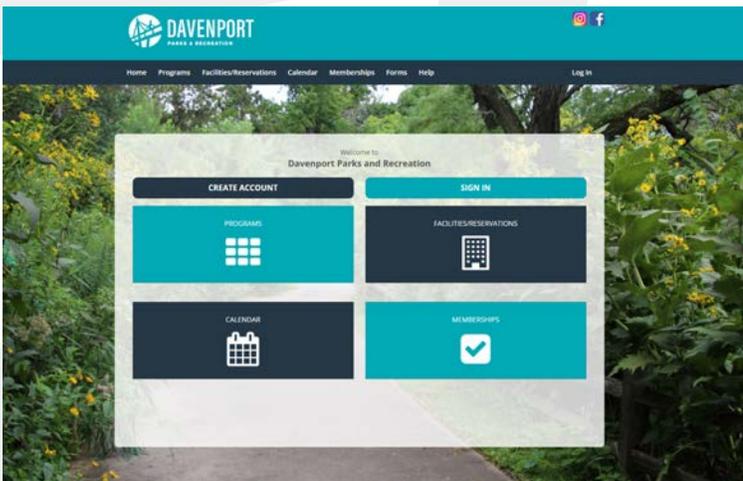
Beginning January 2024, the community will have a more user-friendly experience with Parks and Recreation as the department undergoes a significant transition to a new recreation management software.



The decision to shift stemmed from several essential considerations including the desire for platform modernization, future-proof product support and improvement, seamless integration with third-party solutions (e.g., Team Sideline), heightened accessibility to information for reports and queries, an intuitive and improved end-user experience, and an overarching emphasis on data integrity and integration between modules and functions. The primary objectives of this transition were to embrace a web-based software system, diversify payment types to align with current customer options, centralize communication tools with customers, and offer an optimized and user-friendly online experience.

The department has partnered with RecDesk, a cloud-based recreation software platform that facilitates access to all modules and options within the platform. This includes a streamlined customer experience with enhanced household controls for families and users, expanded internal communication capabilities, task assignments to staff, and the incorporation of email and text/SMS communication tools. Additionally, RecDesk offers an array of options for reservations and program registrations.

In December, the department initiated a community-wide awareness campaign announcing the availability of the new software for families and program participants to create their customer accounts.





## 08 THE RIVER'S EDGE ADDS A SECOND ICE RINK

The new year will be a lot cooler at The River's Edge with the opening of a second ice rink. Throughout the summer and fall, staff worked hard to prepare the indoor turf area to transition it to a second ice rink. The new rink adheres to the standard North American dimensions, measuring 85 feet by 200 feet, in contrast to the other rink at The River's Edge which aligns with international standards at 100 feet by 200 feet.

The conversion of the second ice sheet into an indoor turf initially responded to a community need for indoor spaces. As the Quad Cities witnessed the emergence of new sports spaces, the demand for and utilization of the indoor turf area diminished, while participation in ice sports experienced a surge. Although neighboring cities such as Iowa City, Coralville, and Dubuque have ice arenas, The River's Edge stands as the exclusive facility in the area—apart from Vibrant Arena at The Mark—with the capacity to host local and regional competitions in both figure skating and hockey.

In 2022, the Davenport Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan was successfully concluded and adopted. A recurring theme was the expressed desire and necessity for additional indoor ice space to accommodate the growing interest in ice sports within the region. The strategic planning and implementation of a second ice rink directly addresses this imperative. This second ice rink will provide a chance for expanded Learn to Skate class offerings, increased public skate opportunities, enhanced accessibility for hockey and figure skating organizations, and an increased capacity to host national and regional competitions and tournaments.





# Employee Spotlight

## TWO DAVENPORT POLICE COMMANDERS GRADUATE FROM THE NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF POLICE STAFF AND COMMAND

Captain Greg Behning and Lieutenant Dennis Colclasure attended the School of Police Staff & Command (SPSC), a prestigious law enforcement management course from Northwestern University. This leadership and management education program helps prepare experienced law enforcement professionals for success in senior command positions. Through an innovative combination of academic principles with practical applications, the 10-week SPSC curriculum focused on critical command-level content such as planning and policies, media relations, organizational behavior, budgeting and resource allocation, human resources, and contemporary policing.



## DAVENPORT POLICE K-9 DAWN RETIRES AFTER 7 YEARS OF SERVICE

After serving the Davenport Police Department and community for over seven years, K-9 Officer Dawn retired on December 31.

K-9 Officer Dawn served as a member of the Narcotics Unit as a passive alert K-9 assigned to her partner Sergeant Brandon Koepke. During her career, Dawn helped seize approximately one million dollars' worth of narcotics and conducted hundreds of search warrants. In addition to narcotics identification, Dawn also conducted article searches and tracking. Her favorite part of the job was spending time with the community. In retirement, Dawn will continue to live with her partner Sergeant Koepke and her four-legged siblings.



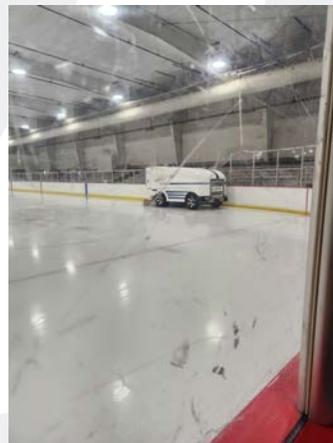
# PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF LEAD EDUCATION SESSION FOR IPRA

Parks and Recreation staff hosted 21 professionals from the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association's (IPRA) Rec Interest group.

Ice and Turf Supervisor Ryan Devlin presented on the evolution of The River's Edge in his presentation titled, *Ice to Turf Back to Ice Conversion*. In this discussion, Devlin emphasized the planning, design, and operational needs to convert an indoor turf into a second sheet of ice for hockey and figure skating. Participants learned about the fun opportunities at The River's Edge, toured the facility, and were even able to ice skate.

Events, Education and Aquatics Supervisor Amanda Randerson presented on the Fejervary Holiday Lights display. In this presentation, Randerson reviewed the process for converting the Fejervary Learning Center into a holiday light show experience. Participants also received a tour of the Fejervary Learning Center and saw the light show in action.

During each presentation, participants gained strategies to help include elected officials in their decision-making processes, how to maximize staff skills to manage cost-controls of project materials, and how to leverage the help needed with limited staff resources.



## Project Highlights:

Multi-Sport Courts are fairly new to the Parks and Recreation realm. These types of courts were initially pitched for urban settings where green space was limited and there was a need for an area that could be a multi-purpose space. Multi-Sport Courts can be used for various hard court activities including basketball, pickleball, tennis, and volleyball.

When the City of Davenport was awarded funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Parks and Recreation Department starting vetting various park improvement projects for the Van Buren, Cork Hill, and Herrington neighborhood parks. It was decided that all three of these areas would be optimal for Multi-Sport Courts. With approval from the City Council, the Multi-Sport Court journey began.

Initially, this project was sent to bid in the Spring of 2023, and after bid opening, City Staff decided the best course of action would be to rebid this project in the fall for optimal bidding opportunity. In November 2023, the bid was reissued, and award was recommended to City Council. On December 13, 2023 Davenport City Council approved the award of the Multi-Sport Court Installation project to Langman Construction, Inc. City staff is excited to begin construction of the three courts with an anticipated competition date in the Summer of 2024.

## Planning & Development

### **Creating Places**

Main Street Landing: Adventure Play and Event Lawn | The developmental design construction package has been received. The next phase will include the construction documentation. Sasaki and City staff will begin to develop working drawings and set a final estimate of construction costs. The project team continues to work on value engineering exercises to ensure the project stays within budget

Cork Hill, Van Buren, and Herrington Multi-Sport Courts | On December 13, 2023, Davenport City Council awarded the Multi-Sport Court contract to Langman Construction, Inc. Next steps include setting up a pre-construction meeting

Emeis Adaptive and Inclusive Playground | Proposals have been evaluated by City staff and three finalists have been selected for a round of public input. A final recommendation will be made based on the feedback generated during the input session

Cork Hill Splashpad | The project plans, specifications, and purchase of the water play equipment is currently being prepared for Council approval on the first cycle of January 2024. Project bid is anticipated shortly after Council approval

### **West Locust Sewer Connectivity**

Duck Creek Sewer | On December 13, 2023, Davenport City Council awarded the Duck Creek Sewer contract to Valley Construction Company. City staff will begin initial construction planning with the contractor shortly after the new year

### **Multi-Modal Connectivity**

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**

Flood Mitigation Stage 22 | On December 13, 2023, Davenport City Council awarded the Flood Mitigation contract to Langman Construction, Inc

## Construction

### **Neighborhood Reinvestment**

DREAMPlus | Forty-seven projects have now been awarded, with 35 already complete or with work underway

**Library Enhancements**  
Fairmount Community Center | Construction has begun and is expected to conclude in the Spring of 2024

**Creating Places**  
Dohse Splashpad | The Henley Group is on site and construction has officially commenced. Subsurface work is expected to continue as weather allows. All splash and play equipment have been ordered and are currently in fabrication

## 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

Public Wi-Fi Hot Spots

### **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



## 01 WINTER WELLNESS EVENT

The end-of-the-year Winter Wellness Event was geared toward aiding individuals encountering housing challenges by providing crucial services and winter preparedness resources. This event offered the community a valuable opportunity to access complimentary medical care, tests, vaccinations, and health screenings. The Library distributed essential resources, including 200 laundry vouchers, bus tokens amounting to \$650, 90 blankets, 50 throws, 90 pairs of socks, and numerous winter necessities including coats, gloves, hats, clothes, shoes, and other items provided by generous vendors.

## 02 RIBBON CUTTING AND A VISIT FROM JAN BRETT

The first Saturday in December was an action-packed day for the Davenport Public Library. Not only was it the official ribbon cutting of the new Enhanced Children's Areas at the Eastern Branch and the Fairmount Branch, but also Jan Brett's Winter Wonderland Book Tour.

The ceremonial ribbon was cut by Jan Brett on the new Enhanced Children's Area at the Eastern Branch. The new learning spaces will ignite children's imagination and allow kids to engage in different activities that support the fundamentals of emergent and early literacy.

Jan Brett stuck around for her Winter Wonderland Book Tour with Prairie Lights Bookstore. Jan did an exciting drawing demonstration and told the story behind the inspiration for her newest book *Cozy*. After her drawing demonstration was complete, patrons were able to meet Hedgie (Jan's favorite friend from *The Mitten* and *The Hat*), purchase copies of Jan's books, and get books autographed.



## 03 HISTORICAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT AWARDED TO DAVENPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

On behalf of the Friends of the Davenport Public Library, the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center of the Davenport Public Library successfully received a \$19,138 Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa for "Preserving Local Music: Digitizing the Fredlo Recording Studios Collection". The Fredlo Recording Studios collection covers 28 years (1948 to 1976) of local music recordings by Fred and Lois Mauck. With this grant, Special Collections will be able to digitize 287 items in various audio recording formats including acetate recordings, 78 rpm singles, vinyl singles, full-length record albums, and an open-reel tape. The digitized versions will be made available for patrons and researchers in the Library.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 01 JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT INSPIRE CAREER EXPO

The City made a big impact at this year's Junior Achievement Inspire Career Expo. Police, Fire, and Parks & Recreation were on hand to inspire local eighth graders into a potential career in city government. This two-day event welcomed over 3,000 students from every school district in the region. All three departments had interactive activities and staff on hand to educate youth on the multitude of career opportunities within the City.



## 02 COPS & COCOA

Children and families gathered at the Vander Veer Botanical Park Conservatory for a festive evening to celebrate the holidays hosted by the City of Davenport. Attendees enjoyed free hot cocoa and cookies, conversation with Davenport Police Officers, squad car tours, the beautiful poinsettia and holiday light displays, and more. This year, cookies and cocoa were sponsored by a brand-new Good Neighbor Project participant, Evolution Power Tools!



## 03 TARGET HEROES & HELPERS

Scott County First Responders, including Davenport Fire and Police, participated in Heroes & Helpers at the Davenport Target. Heroes & Helpers events are hosted in Target stores across the country, pairing local public safety partners with youth from under-resourced areas to go holiday shopping. With the help of the Davenport Police Department, Hope at the BRICK House was awarded a \$2,500 grant from Target to purchase gifts this holiday season. Twenty-five Hope at the BRICK House children joined in the fun as they shopped with Scott County First Responders and other adults for the perfect presents to give family members. Target employees and volunteers also assisted in wrapping gifts while enjoying hot chocolate and cookies with the participants.



## 04 PROJECT RENEWAL GROUND BLESSING

Good Neighbor Project partners at Project Renewal celebrated the beginning of their expansion project at 510 Warren Street with a ground blessing. Supporters gathered at the property to congratulate staff, volunteers, and children. For 49 years, Project Renewal's mission has been to empower children and families by acting as a loving presence. Their latest demonstration of this mission includes the Project Renewal Youth Center in Davenport which will serve as a hub of activity to educate, affirm, and build the self-esteem of the children in the community.



## 05 FIRST RESPONDERS TEAM UP WITH HY-VEE FOR HAMS FOR THE HOLIDAY EVENT

Local first responders teamed up with Hy-Vee employees and food pantry volunteers for the sixth annual Hams for the Holidays event. Members of the Davenport Police and Fire Departments were joined by other local first responders to distribute over 570 hams to families in need. This collaborative event is sponsored by Hy-Vee and Hormel Foods to help fight insecurities in communities and is one of ten locations in eight states distributing hams during the holiday season.



## 06 DAVENPORT POLICE HOST ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Through the generosity of community members, DPD collected hundreds of toys this holiday season during the 21st annual Davenport Police Association Toy Drive. Donated toys are given to children in Family Resource's domestic violence shelters, child advocate programs, victims of sexual assaults, other at-risk programs, and to children in the adopt-a-family program.



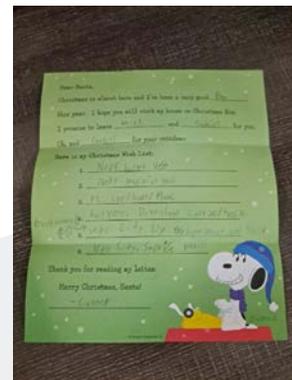
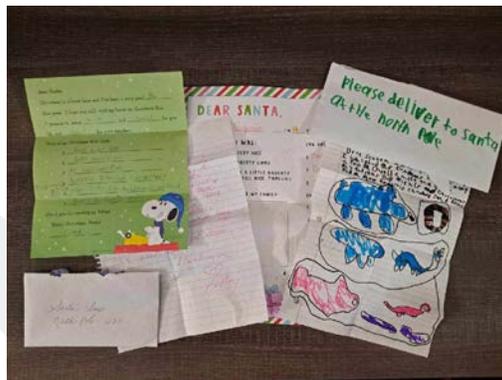
## 07 COPS & COCOA IN THE COMMUNITY

Davenport Police enjoyed a hot cup of cocoa and great conversations with community members at two Cops and Cocoa events hosted by partner organizations Family Resources and TMBC at the Lincoln Center.



## 08 LETTERS TO THE NORTH POLE

For the second year, Parks and Recreation became an outpost for the North Pole by accepting letters addressed to Santa and his helpers. This year over 50 letters were dropped off at one of three locations. The youngest letter writer was 2-years-old and the oldest was 86-years-old. Letters were received from 9 different cities and 3 states, the furthest being Arizona. Santa's helpers sent replies to those who left return addresses.



## 09 DFD HOLIDAY LUNCH AT CASI

The annual holiday luncheon hosted by Davenport Fire and Local 17 at the Center for Active Seniors Inc (CASI) was a success. Led by Engineer Packy Dolan, meals were prepared at Central Fire Station and later served by firefighters, Fire Santa, and Elves. This tradition has been part of the DFD for over 21 years and is enjoyed by all involved.



## 10 KEEP THE WREATH RED

For the fourth year, Davenport Fire Department joined the public safety campaign known as "Keep the Wreath Red," which promoted fire safety as thousands of residents decorated for the holidays. Firefighters placed a wreath at Station 3 and for each residential fire that occurred, a light bulb was changed from red to white. The wreath served as a visual reminder that the holiday season can be a dangerous time for fires in the home. Those who passed the fire station received a subtle reminder that a home fire is always a possibility and to practice holiday fire and home heating safety.