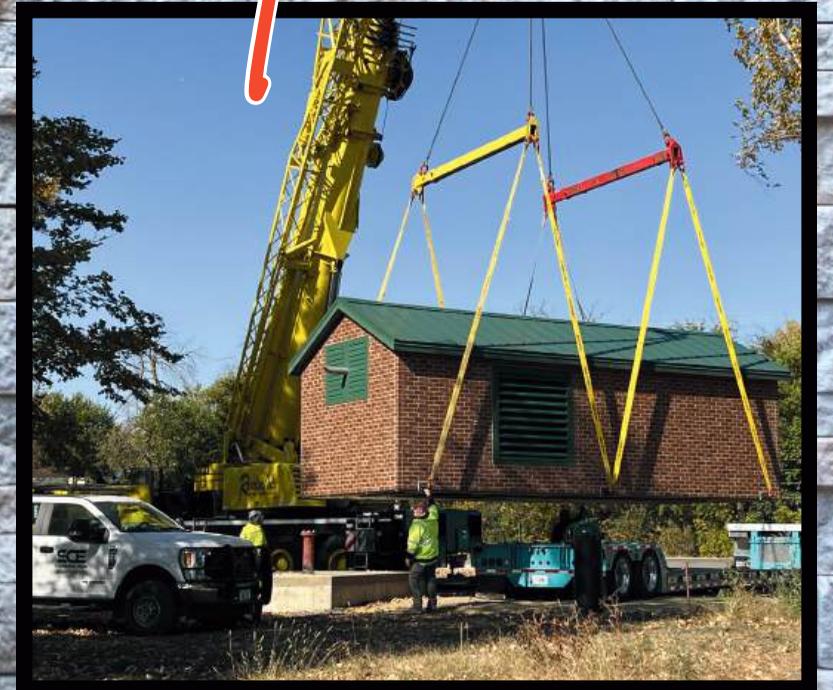
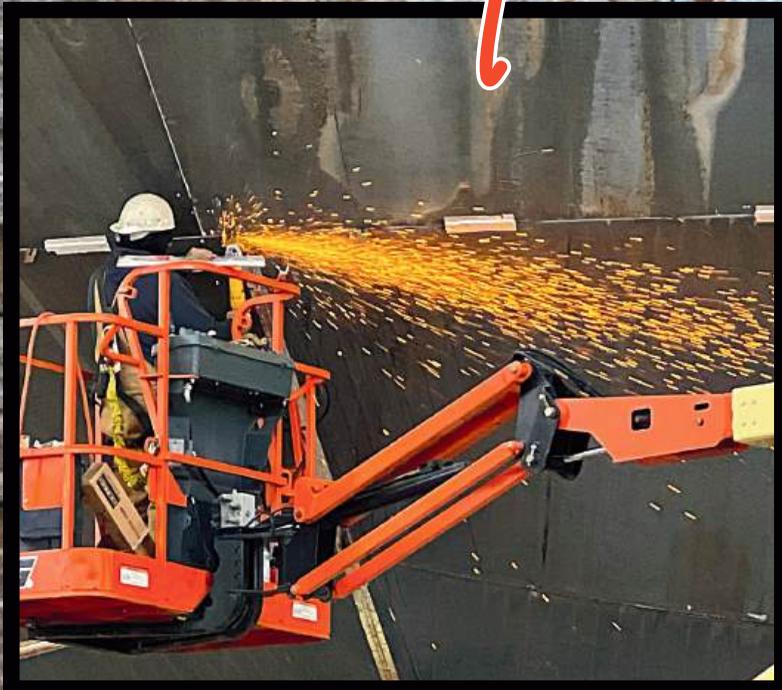


CITY OF STORM LAKE

2024 *Annual Report*



CITY OF STORM LAKE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Introduction

ANNUAL REPORT



The year 2024 has been one of both great challenges and great successes for the City of Storm Lake.

A series of significant projects have been realized or are under way:

- Construction for a new water tower
- Paving and utilities improvements associated with the Memorial Road project
- Installation of a new well and wellhouse structure
- Development of Harmony Garden
- New playgrounds at Chautauqua Park and Sunrise Park campgrounds
- Completed upgrades and renovation for indoor and outdoor waterparks
- Addition of a UV wastewater treatment facility
- Less visual, but crucial: planning was initiated toward a new water treatment facility, two new fire trucks were approved for purchase, a new Comprehensive Plan was completed as a guide for future development.
- New housing developments continue to emerge.
- The City played a leading role in establishing a regional Hometown Pride coalition and looks forward to projects utilizing those new tools.

- A grant has been secured for improvements to the community's boating amenities.
- The City has worked to further improve its efforts in tourism and economic development, in keeping with council-directed goals.
- Successful events such as Kids Fest and Breakfast With Santa were among 2024's happiest highlights, and the City continues to work with agencies and groups to help make other local events successful.

Looking ahead, there is much still to be done in 2025, beginning with maintaining and improving infrastructure.

- King's Pointe improvements will continue, to make our resort facilities and attractions the best they can be.
- Facilities for water supply, treatment and storage remain a top-of-mind need, as conditions have continued to warrant periods of mandatory conservation measures.
- Exploration of ambitious goals such as recreation and child care facilities can create exciting opportunities.

It has been the City staff's pleasure to serve the people of our community, and to work with a progressive-minded council, during a memorable 2024. We are committed to continue progress into a promising new year.



Keri Navratil

Storm Lake City Manager

CITY OF STORM LAKE

A Year in Projects → PROGRESS

1. Harmony Garden
2. Memorial Road
3. New well house
4. LED lighting upgrades
5. Water tower construction
6. Downtown holiday lights
7. Chautauqua playground
8. Waterpark renovation



The City of Storm Lake has stressed volunteerism over the past few years, from the Storm Lake Proud Week events to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception the City has hosted. The City staff continues to work with Volunteer Iowa to ensure that opportunities are available to welcome all for engagement in their community.

Following are excerpts from Mayor Mike Porsch's message from the 2024 Volunteer Appreciation event:

"I want to welcome you all here this evening... this is just a token of our appreciation for all you do for your community. I want to start my remarks off with a few questions for you to consider – questions I think we need to consider as we move our community forward:

How can you make a difference in your community?

What would you want your community to be like a year from now? Five years from now? A generation from now?

All of you in this room, and others like you, make our community what it is today, and will help to shape it for the future. We have faith that it will continue to be a caring, involved place – but that does not happen on its own.

Each of you in this room gives back to the community in some way. Maybe you hand out food to people in need, or deliver meals to the elderly. Maybe you help to keep our parks and beaches clean. Maybe you rescue stray animals. Maybe you give a little of your time to help the library or Santa's Castle, or coach children, or serve on a board or committee.

Whatever you do, sometimes you may feel your role is small. I assure you, it is not. No act of kindness is ever small. People giving of their time and talents is truly the fabric of a community.

VOLUNTEERISM



There is a place for everyone to be involved, no matter your age, or what language you speak. There is a role to match no matter what your abilities and interests may be. Pick up a Volunteer Guide outside this room, with listings for many places you can volunteer around the community.

One volunteer mission that you will be hearing more about is the Hometown Pride organization, which is part of the Keep Iowa Beautiful program. Storm Lake

and nine other communities in the region are working as a team to build community pride and create projects that will better each of our communities. One of the first steps will be to recruit a volunteer Hometown Pride committee in Storm Lake.

Watch for more information as this effort gets underway...

I want to take an opportunity this evening to do what we can never do enough – thank everyone for the volunteering they do in the Storm Lake community and beyond. You all make this a better community and a better world to live in.

Take an opportunity this evening to meet and connect with people of other organizations and projects. Working together, we can always achieve more than we can alone."





Downtown MASTER PLAN



Public Art



Mosaic Murals



Downtowns are the heart of our communities - economically, physically, and socially. Their density and resiliency create ample opportunities to provide better and more efficient access to services, employment, housing, arts, and entertainment, while also representing our communities and all our residents have to offer.

With that value in mind, the City of Storm Lake has compiled a Downtown Master Plan, a long-term aspirational, yet implementable vision for Storm Lake's Central Business District.

Five firms submitted proposals to produce the Downtown Master Plan. A committee was formed to evaluate the proposals, and ISG was selected – the council felt they were most familiar with the community, and presented the best options to reach out to a multicultural population. The cost was just over \$103,000. The plan was adopted in June, 2023, after about a year of preparation.

As part of the process, community visioning discussion were held, as well as one-on-one discussions with downtown business operators. A project website was created to collect additional public input, and an open house ice cream social invited the public to indicate potential options in the plan that they most supported.

A Downtown Assessment followed in the spring of 2024 – one of the first projects stemming from the Downtown Master Plan. A team from Iowa Economic Development created a report and suggestions for future development.

Other projects on behalf of the downtown included:

- A concert to test out a potential performance area in the Erie Street parking lot
- Harmony Garden development at the library grounds as a gathering space in the downtown area
- 150th anniversary banners
- Addition of new planters in 2024
- Upgraded street lighting to LEDs
- New holiday season store lighting
- A ad hoc committee that is exploring signage and wayfinding options

Some options in the master plan will likely require public/private partnership, or a consensus of the business community. The City will continue to seek opportunities for the downtown area and work with businesses to encourage the commercial district to thrive. The Downtown Master Plan will continue to be utilized to guide direction for an anticipated 10-20 years, and was also a valuable tool in creation of the recently completed Comprehensive Plan.

DOWNTOWN

Master Plan



Artist's concepts from the 2024 IDEA Downtown Assessment study.



*Departmental
Reports 2024*

POLICE



The Storm Lake Police Department has continued to stress public outreach along with advanced training, substantial equipment upgrades and recruitment/retention efforts. An additional Patrol Officer was hired. The department raised over \$20,000 from donations for a new K-9.

Outreach events since January 2024

- Bingo with a cop
- Youth girls and boys basketball camp
- Movie with a Cop
- Meet us at the Market
- YumVee Patrols
- National Night Out
- Community Education Prime Time event
- School Summer Lunch Program outreach
- United Community Health Center Health Festival
- SLCSD new teacher outreach
- Coffee with a Cop (Grand Central East/SL Bakery)
- Thrills and Chills event
- Pop-Up-BBQ for Seneca Park Water Bottle Fill
- Station ribbon cutting
- Downtown Business Surveys
- Tacos with a Cop Back to School Block Party

Training since Jan 1, 2024

- Advanced Patrol Tactics (2 officers)
- Investigating Sex Crimes
- Kratom Substance Education
- Homicide Crime Scene Investigation
- Iowa Narcotics Association Conference (2 officers)
- Finding the Leader in You Leadership training
- Firearms Instructor Cert. Training (2 officers)

- Rifle Instructor Certification Training
- Defensive Tactics Instructor Certification
- Death and Homicide Investigation
- Force on Force Scenario and Safety Instructor Certification (2 officers)
- Handgun Red Dot and Low Light Instructor Certification
- Basic SWAT Training (4 officers)
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement
- High Threat Close Quarter Combat Instructor (2 officers)
- Tactical High Threat K9 Patrol Tactics
- Drug Interdiction Techniques
- Hostage Negotiation
- Courtroom Testimony Training
- Tactical Ballistic Shield operator
- Racial Bias and De-escalation Training
- Evidence Based Interview and Interrogation Training (2 officers)
- Field Training instruction
- Legal Updates
- Smith and Wesson armorer's certification

Equipment upgrades since Jan 2024

- Replaced Supervisor's Vehicle
- HVAC upgrade on the PD Building
- Desk upgrades for Lieutenants Office
- Upgraded Command Post/MRAP/Entry Team radios
- Purchased Force on Force Training equipment
- Replaced a marked squad after one was totaled after striking a deer
- Purchased 15 public safety cameras to be located

Departmental Reports

POLICE



in various areas of the city for criminal investigations.
New water rescue flotation devices for all vehicles
Replaced two radar units
Purchased Surveillance equipment
SMART Board purchased



Departmental Reports 2024



FIRE
DEPARTMENT



Make Me A Firefighter



STORM LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM



The Storm Lake Fire Department has positioned itself as one of the state's leading departments, upgrading training and training facilities, working toward the latest in equipment, and serving the community with numerous outreach efforts. The department recently created and filled a new position of in-house fire inspector.

Highlights from 2024 included:

Equipment Upgrades

- Prepared for purchase of two fire trucks, to replace aging models in the fleet
- Replaced 3,200 feet of hose, including supply and attack line, as part of a five-year complete replacement plan
- Obtained battery-powered extrication equipment to replace a hydraulic-powered system that was unable to cut today's modern vehicle alloys
- Replace supply and attack lines on engine 72 and tower 71
- Secured grant funding for ongoing emergency radio upgrade project
- Added live-burn training facility on-site

Training and Education

- Hosted the department's first Regional Fire School to provide training for firefighters from around the state
- Hosted Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 training courses

- Launched the department's first-ever Junior Firefighter Academy program with the first class of recruits to begin in 2025

Outreach and Events

- Planned and hosted an annual Fire Department Open House, with events and demonstrations for families
- Multiple Fire Safety Education House appearances around the community to teach children fire safety
- Fire Prevention Week activities and events
- Participated in parades for Miracle on Lake Avenue, Star Spangled Spectacular and Homecoming
- Participated in events such as Kids Fest and Breakfast With Santa
- Offered a new coloring contest for children in public and parochial schools in the City

Looking Ahead

- The department is within two fiscal years of completing upgrades for large ticket items, and then plans a 5-10 year maintenance cycle
- The department has equipment and trained personnel to begin a technical rescue operation that will add to self-sufficiency
- The department hopes to add in-station staffing to reduce time for emergency response
- Expanding services offered and potential revenue

Departmental Reports

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Departmental Reports 2024

PUBLIC

SERVICES



Departmental Reports

PUBLIC SERVICES

The Storm Lake Public Services team wears many hats, with the skills to do nearly any job required. The department has been able to take on numerous developments in-house, saving a great deal of funding. From taking down over 200 ailing trees to renovating the library grounds to building paved trail with the City's own equipment, it has been a busy and productive year.

Some of the highlights include:

Parks

- Assisted with removal and installation of a new play structure for Chautauqua Park
- Completed new pickleball courts facility and installed new lighting system
- Transplanted plants into Sunrise Park Boulevard area and repaired irrigation
- Poured concrete pads for existing and new picnic tables/benches in all parks
- New playground added for campground area

Streets and concrete

- Poured new trail along Kading Development housing area
- Kings Pointe concrete repairs in outdoor waterpark and in front of building
- Finished removing dead ash trees in ROW, will continue along lake bank this winter
- Ground, filled and seeded 300+ stumps

- Storm Sewer Repairs - North Oneida, Railroad/Ontario
- Irving Street asphalt overlay
- W 10th Street asphalt overlay

Special Projects

- Harmony Gardens - concrete removal, deck and pavers installation, walkway paving, hardscape installation. Landscaping and seeding to be done spring 25
- Water Bottle Filling Station in Seneca Park, concrete done for filling station in Chautauqua Park to be installed spring 2025

Golf

- Ash tree removal completed,
- Stumps ground, filled and areas seeded
- 30 trees moved from tree nursery onto course

Routine

- Tree trimming, parks and rain garden maintenance, snow removal and ice treatment, pothole repairs, sidewalk repairs

Future

Planning for boat dock project 2025-26, planning for future development of spoil site



Departmental Reports 2024



WATER &

WASTEWATER



City of Storm Lake water and wastewater facilities are proactively maintained at the highest levels to ensure continued quality water supply and reliable services for the community of Storm Lake and surrounding customers.

Some of the 2024 highlights include:

- Concrete coating of the west a-basin at the WWTP Which will extend the life of the basin
- Completion of the UV building project
- Construction of a new water tower #5. Work on the tower is progressing. The bowl is over half constructed with completion expected in 2025

- Drilled well for new well 22. The contractor is expected to continue work through winter
- Started plans for well 23 which will share a well house with well 22
- Well 21 is up and running as of December. Area will be seeded in the spring
- Scout Park/Icehouse lift station project is underway. A neighborhood informational meeting was held, and a contractor is expected to start in the spring
- Two new water fountain service lines have been installed. (Seneca Park is complete and Chautauqua Park fountain is to be installed in spring)

Water Tower #5 construction, winter 2024



Departmental Reports

WATER

& WASTEWATER

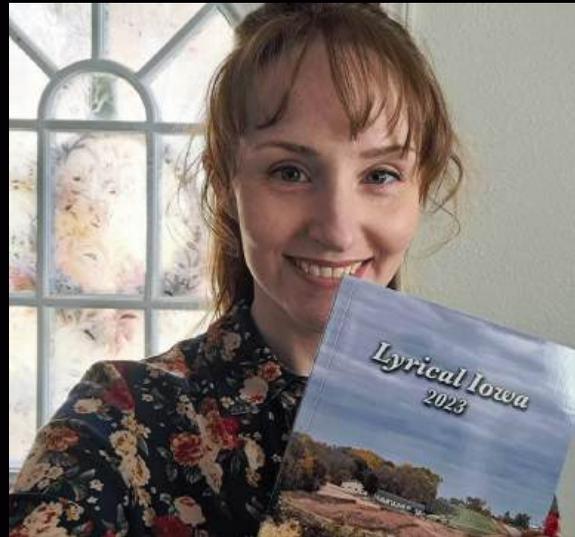


Departmental Reports 2024



PUBLIC

LIBRARY



Departmental Reports

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Storm Lake Public Library has seen a year of important advances, with new education and entertainment programs, facility improvements, and new avenues to embrace technology.

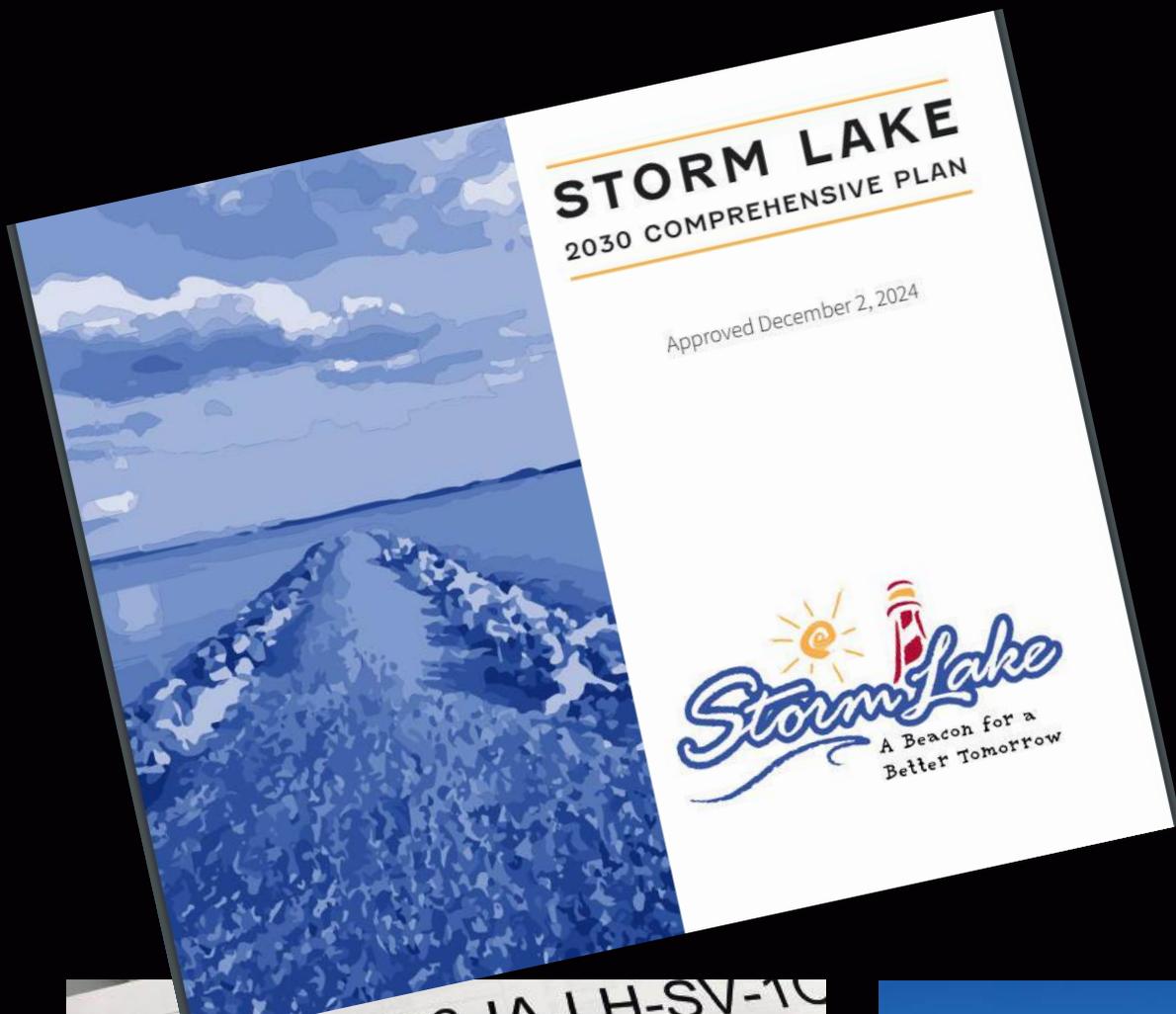
Some of the highlights for 2024:

- Telehealth Room Open House, January 4
- Preschool Story Time with Alex, new youth program, twice a month
- New Fire Alarm System installed
- Spanish Story Time with Ana, new Saturday youth program, once a month
- Library Director's AI webinars with American Library Association
- Library Director's National Library of Medicine (Telehealth) Zoom Meeting
- Community Connect Program (grant-funded financial literacy programs)
- Navigators services program/intern resources worker later in the year
- New boiler heating system
- Storm Lake Public Library Telehealth Presentation, American Library Association National Conference, San Diego, June 29
- Pokemon Club with Alex, new Saturday youth program
- Kids Yoga and Mindfulness, new Saturday youth program
- First Graders and their Families at the Library (literacy program)

- Summer Reading Program with puppet show, ice cream social and zoo visits
- Hosted election polling places
- Multiple film series offerings
- LED light conversion at library
- Aquabats (new teen and youth after-school gathering program)
- Completion of Friends of the Library coffee shop project
- Hosted poetry reading community event.
- 10-year anniversaries for Knit One and Mystery Book Clubs
- Hosted open house for dedication of the Harmony Garden development.
- Banned Book Week author Zoom event
- Continuation grant for Hot Spot service until December of 2026
- PIE turkey cookie project with Molly Richardson's Early Elementary class (26th year)
- Santa movie (after Breakfast With Santa)
- Knit One stocking caps project for charity

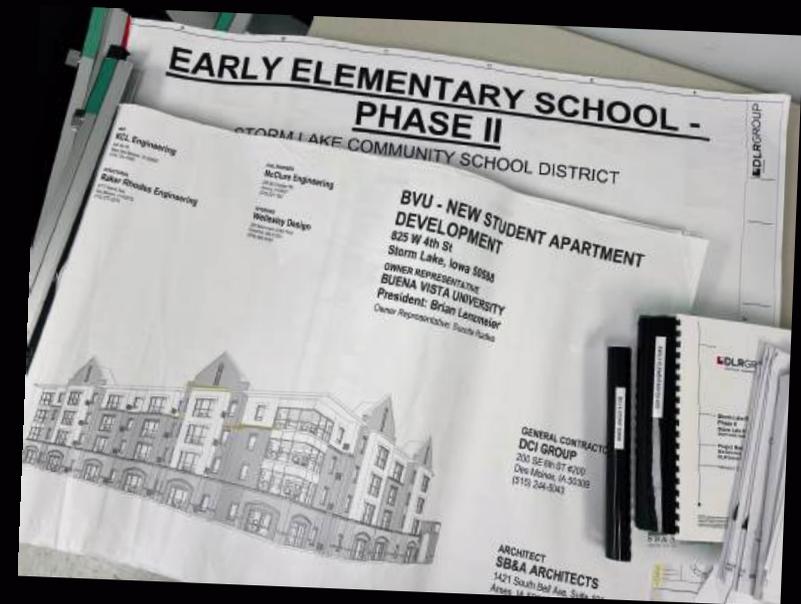
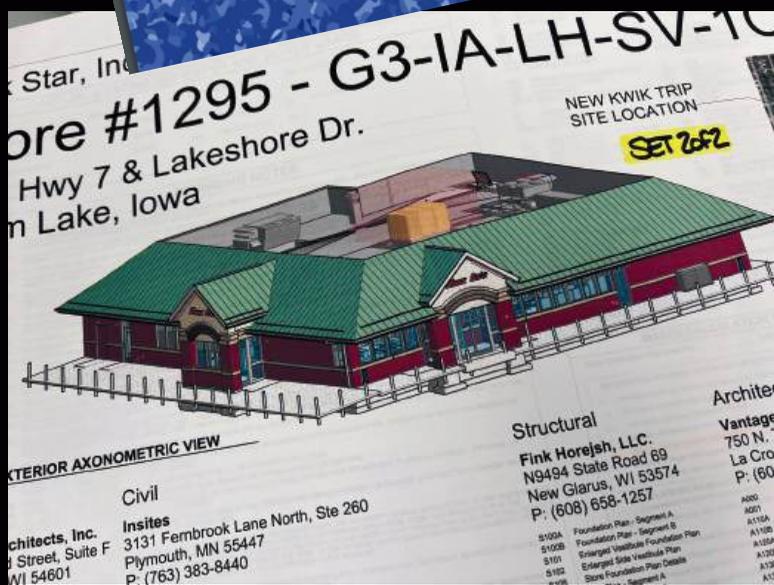


Above, LED lighting project. At left, film series offerings at the library.



Departmental Reports 2024

BUILDING & CODES



Departmental Reports

BUILDING & CODES

A stunning year for growth and development in the community means a busy year for the City of Storm Lake's building and Codes department. A major Kading Housing development and other new home projects, a new four-story residence hall and expansion of the fieldhouse for Buena Vista University, an education center for ICCC, an early elementary school wing, the new Kwik Star building and other new business establishments have been a pleasure for the department to work with. In addition, a new Comprehensive Plan was created to guide land use in the City for years to come.

Some of the highlights for 2024:

- There were new homes and duplexes constructed in Emerald Park and along West 6th Street. The Department collaborated with the developers to coordinate our efforts to ensure a smooth process
- The Kading duplex workforce housing units development was completed and is fully occupied now, providing 170 new housing units
- The Department worked with the Kading group earlier this year to start a 76-unit townhouse development started on West 10th Street. They are framing dwellings as of the end of the year

- The new ICCC two story education building is complete and occupied
- The second phase of the Early Elementary School opened to students this fall
- Buena Vista University is constructing a four-story dormitory
- Buena Vista University has begun a weight training facility addition to the Siebens Fieldhouse
- Storm Lake Honda added a new addition to their dealership
- United Bank of Iowa added additional office space
- Vison Care remodeled the former Faust building for their business
- United Community Health Center has been completed an addition to the east end of the facility
- Memorial Road/utilities upgrade project is complete
- The Kwik Star new convenience store and car wash along East Lakeshore Drive is complete and open for business
- New City 1.75-million-gallon water tower is underway. The Department has also worked with several new businesses in the renovation of existing buildings into restaurants, coffee shops, and retail establishments
- 181 rental housing inspections were conducted during 2024



Memorial Road progress, summer 2024

Departmental Reports 2024

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Thursday, April 25
1:30 PM
City Hall council chambers
Everyone Welcome



Departmental Reports

ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT



The City of Storm Lake Economic Development program worked to lay the groundwork for future business, industry and services growth for the community.

Some of the highlights for 2024:

- Conducted 38 Business Retention and Expansion visits
- Updated LOIS (national online location analysis tool that promotes available site and building inventory for Storm Lake)
- In partnership with The Retail Coach met with stakeholders and potential franchisees for recruitment of new retail business
- Connected owners of vacant buildings with potential entrepreneurs looking to start new businesses
- Completed a strategic plan for child care and formed the Storm Lake Child Care Steering Committee. Assisted in the purchase of potential child care site
- Added child care page to the City website, with topics such as: how to start a day care, requirements for providers, finding child care and child care resources
- Collaborated with the Iowa Lakes Corridor and The Foundry to provide business succession planning, training and assistance
- Worked with the Iowa Downtown Resource Center and Iowa Economic Development Authority to conduct a Downtown Assessment to raise awareness, and educate and encourage the local community to implement practical recommendations from the assessment report
- Appointed an Ad Hoc Downtown Signage Committee to work to improve design and communication on appropriate signage in the Central Business District
- Selected Maxfield Research & Consulting to complete a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment study
- Added a page to the City website to provide access to webinars, workshops and trainings designed to assist new or existing businesses to grow their business or expand their career skills
- Provided Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Finance Authority with new business bios for a downtown walking tour
- City representative Lee Dutfield appointed to serve on the NW Iowa Regional Housing Authority board

Downtown Assessment report to the City Council and community.



Departmental Reports 2024

COMMUNICATIONS/ TOURISM



Looks absolutely beautiful. Adding it to the list! 🌟🌟🌟

We have been wanting a close vacay spot for the kids! This is a contender for sure!

I love your showcase here. Definitely puts Iowa on the map for me!

Ohg what a gorgeous place to visit!! 🍷🍷

I would have never thought to travel here! Looks amazing!

DISCOVER THE ADVENTURE FOR YOURSELF!

King's Pointe Family Resort



Storm Lake

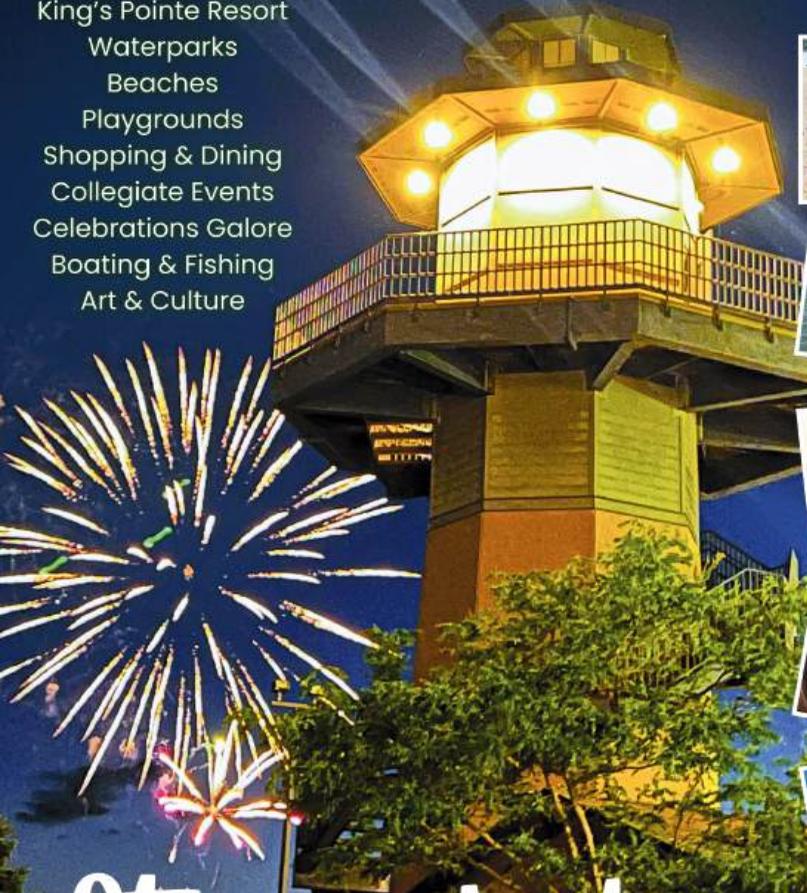
The Winter Wonderland



Indoor Waterpark, Prime Ice Fishing, Cross Country Ski Trail, Great Shopping & Dining

ESCAPE EXPLORE DISCOVER

King's Pointe Resort
Waterparks
Beaches
Playgrounds
Shopping & Dining
Collegiate Events
Celebrations Galore
Boating & Fishing
Art & Culture



Storm Lake

LEARN MORE: STORM LAKE.ORG/VISITORS





Departmental
Reports

TOURISM & COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Storm Lake Communications program continued to grow public information, tourism and promotions throughout a successful year.

Some of the highlights for 2024:

- Wrote a state Water Recreation Access Grant that will improve lakefront boating facilities
- Chaired and organized Hometown Pride program for the region
- Planned and executed popular City events including Kids' Fest and Breakfast With Santa and ribbon-cuttings
- Planned City Volunteer Appreciation reception and slide show
- Assisted all departments with events, design, promotion and media relations
- Continued to grow social media footprint. City page has over 14,700 followers, approximately 175,000 post reach per month and over 86,000 post engagement per month
- Produced numerous travel reels, videos and photo collections for community image and attraction
- Created in-house advertising for local media and statewide outlets including The Iowan magazine, region and state travel guides
- Created proposed designs for branded items including t-shirts, decals and street banners

- Proposed Public Art enhancement program for 2025
- Conducted downtown tours for state economic development visit and downtown assessment project
- Assisted in water bottle filling stations project
- Produced council update articles and numerous press releases
- Worked with MidAmerican Energy to coordinate conversion to LED downtown streetlights
- Added a public information requests policy to the City website
- Obtained a Soul of Iowa 2.0 grant to produce a travel "influencer" video
- Produced new City reports: Annual and Mid-Year reports, Strategic Plan Update, departmental goals one-pager, etc.
- #destinationstormlake 2024 tourism campaign
- Daily photos for City social media
- Assisted Farmers' Market with promotion.
- Served on Hunger Dialogue, SALUD and Friends of the Library committees
- Assisted Storm Lake United with planning and execution of community events
- Arranged for tourism strategy sessions for Storm Lake businesses in February
- Planned and promoted completion on Harmony Garden project
- Participated in state Tourism Conference

- Emergency management planning and trainings with BV Emergency Management
- Updated City Volunteer/Donor guides.
- Served as liaison to media for inquiries
- Created a new programmatic online advertising campaign
- Assisted various Storm Lake non-profit events and projects with promotion
- Grant writing as needed



Kids' Fest 2024



15 reasons Storm Lake is cool this winter

Winter Fun in Storm Lake, Iowa



Santa's Castle in Storm Lake



Cobblestone Ballroom, Storm Lake



King's Pointe Indoor Waterpark, Storm Lake



Miracle on Lake Avenue in Storm Lake, Iowa



Storm Lake: Iowa's Water Wonderland



10 reasons to Visit Storm Lake This Fall



Beaver Olympics, Storm Lake IA



25 Affordable Things to Do This Season in Storm Lake



Fiesta Latina in Storm Lake



Storm Lake: Iowa's Halloween Headquarters



Discover the Wildlife of Storm Lake, Iowa



Pasillo Patrimonial at BVU in Storm Lake



Wood, Wine & Blues in Storm Lake



A Day at the Storm Lake Farmer's Market



Storm Lake Music



Fantastic fishing @ Storm Lake



Storm Lake: Iowa's Coolest Hikes



Historical Museum in Storm Lake, Iowa



Farmers' Market in Storm Lake



Top 12 fun things at King's Pointe Waterpark in Storm Lake, Iowa



15 reasons to experience Kids' Fest in Storm Lake

TOURISM *Online Reels*

COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY

In Storm Lake, the City Council members don't just legislate, they participate (and have fun!)

Maggie Martinez at Kids' Fest 2024

Meg McKeon at Harmony Garden

Mayor Mike Porsch and Kevin McKinney with local mascots during a summer event

Matt Ricklefs with a bike giveaway

Maria Ramos at a BV Suicide Prevention walk





CITY DEPARTMENT GOALS FY 2025-26

VISION: IOWA'S FINEST COMMUNITY TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY, THROUGH INNOVATION, INCLUSION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & WELL-BEING

OBJECTIVE

Effective, innovative and efficient management of City resources to reach ambitious objectives and provide an exceptional level of service to the people of Storm Lake.

ONGOING COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- More Retail Businesses
 - A Day Care Facility
- A Community Recreation Center
- Improved Public Transit
 - Buena Vista County Communications Division Multi-Lingual Phone Translation Option
- A "Non-City Hall" Meeting Venue or Facility to Improve Community Outreach
- Expanded Utilization of the Lake resource
 - Development of the Dredge Spoils Site
- Progress/Results from the Downtown Master Plan
 - More Quality Housing
- A Community Foundation
 - A Viable Economic Development Group to Facilitate Land Acquisitions



POLICE DEPT.

- Conduct wage review/enhance employee compensation and benefits to attract and retain qualified officers.
- Internal focus groups to address employee concerns.
- Improve recruitment efforts through outreach and branding.
- Expand training and professional development opportunities.
- Strengthen partnerships with social services and community organizations.
- Strengthen community engagement and trust.
- Enhance second language capability.
- Leverage technology for efficiency and safety.



FIRE DEPT.

- Complete large ticket equipment modernization within two years, then enter maintenance cycle for 5-10 years.
- Begin advanced technical rescue operation to increase self-sufficiency, including hazardous materials, technical and water/dive/ice rescues.
- Increase staffing and response capability. Additional in-house 24 hour staffing to reduce response time for first unit arrival.
- Increase revenue generation to become more fiscally independent. Revenue track may include inspection services, expansion of service area or expansion of services offered.



BUILDING & CODES DEPT.

- Adopt the Comprehensive Plan.
- Update the Zoning Ordinance to reflect changes in the new Comprehensive plan.
- Obtain equipment to allow review of plan submissions in electronic form.
- Increase social media presence for contractors and the public on timely topics.
- Provide additional public education and interaction including potential additional contractor meetings and possibly meetings for homeowners.
- Simplify the permitting process and streamline the public's interaction with staff.
- Longer term, investigate potential for a revolving fund for rehab projects.



WATER & WASTEWATER

- Design/land acquisition for new water plant.
- New test well sites.
- Add staffing
- Improve public outreach.
- Planning for replacement of raw water mains.
- Replacing hydrants, valves, cast iron or undersized mains as needed. (One block of water main yearly.)
- Add staff to jet and televise sewer lines and improve wastewater plant maintenance.
- Update/replace outdated lift stations.
- Rehab/line 18" and 24" sewer lines.
- Replace old brick manholes.
- Set aside funding for Nutrient Reduction plan.
- Improve biosolids operation.
- Plan wastewater plant upgrades.



PUBLIC SERVICES

- Maintain streets with proactive, not reactive approach.
- Update equipment to perform certain needed tasks in-house.
- Update/enhance parks, golf and camping amenities, including restrooms, playgrounds, etc.
- Spoil site development.
- Study new approaches to snow and ice removal to provide efficient, timely service.
- Develop systems to use salt more efficiently in snow removal.
- Maintain and upgrade rain garden stormwater features, with regular inspection and maintenance.
- Provide exceptional customer service in all aspects of work.



LIBRARY

- Better serve baby boomers with large print materials, vehicle for home delivery.
- Tailor collection for interests of Gen Z and Millennials returning to community.
- Work towards a 10% increase in Spanish language youth collection.
- A permanent, part-time service navigator is recommended for a few hours weekly.
- Due to limited interior space, patrons are experiencing cramped areas. An interior consultant would be helpful to refresh and reconfigure the space.
- Evaluation of technology infrastructure as tech use continues to grow. Zoom book club and author talks. Evolve telehealth room for additional videoconferencing uses.



COMMUNITY

►► GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT FLOURISHES

While the City government had a busy year to report in 2024, the community saw more than its share of positive developments as well. New education facilities, a number of new businesses, and multiple housing projects are being achieved, representing many millions of dollars in investment in the community. The City's Building and Codes department was pleased to assist in many projects.



From top left: Iowa Central Community College opened a new Education Center building, with the governor on hand to help cut a dedication ribbon. Luxe Lily celebrated a grand opening, one of several new retail and service businesses to launch in Storm Lake. New housing projects include Kading Sunset Pointe, where construction got underway on 76 new townhouse-style homes. Kwik Star's opening finished the year off strong in December. A second wing was completed for the Early Elementary School, and a third is planned to serve pre-K students.



Storm Lake By the Numbers...

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Storm Lake's population grew from the 2000 census record of 10,076 to 11,269 in the 2020 census, with current population estimated at 11,470.

As of the 2020 census, Storm Lake was the most ethnically diverse city in Iowa, with over 60% of the population and over 80% of students in the community's school district identifying as non-white.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 4.09 square miles.



- White (41.69%)
- Hispanic (39.53%)
- Black/African American (4.49%)
- American Indian/Alaska Native (0.72%)
- Asian (15.46%)
- Pacific Islander (4.10%)
- Other Race (19.56%)
- Two or More Races (13.98%)

Source: US Census, City Comprehensive Plan

