

SIoux CITY PROGRESS



KEEPING SIOUX CITY SAFE

UPPING OUR GAME



MAKING A SPLASH

SPRING - SUMMER 2018

PLAN FOR PROGRESS

As city leaders develop a comprehensive plan to guide decisions for Sioux City's next 20 years, they want to know what's important to YOU. What amenities would you like to see? What roadways or bike paths should be created? What growth would you welcome in your backyard?

"The comprehensive plan prepares our community to adapt to changes that are to come," says Caitlin Drey, Sioux City Growth Organization president and Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee member. "It invites us to think about what we want...or don't want. It's about the quality of life in Sioux City."

According to Community Development Operations Manager Jeff Hanson, this civic blueprint identifies potential growth regions like Lakeport Commons, Whispering Creek, or industrial business parks. "Those areas will be full within three to five years, so we'll look to different parts of the city for retail development, residential neighborhoods, and industrial expansion," he says. "When a city has orderly growth, everyone wins."

Need proof? For regions of its size, the Sioux City metro has been named the nation's top economic development community by *Site Selection* magazine for three years running.



HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!
Complete a quick survey at
WWW.SIOUX-CITY.ORG

STEPPING UP OUR GAME



The Arena, a new \$13 million youth sports complex coming to Sioux City, will be a "complete game changer" for area athletics. Spanning 80,000+ sq. ft., the facility will feature basketball/volleyball courts, batting cages, a turf area, locker rooms, and a 3,000-seat arena to host everything from youth championships to Division I college basketball games.

The Arena will be located in the former stockyards area next to the planned

Expo Center. "The facilities will complement one another, provide year-round athletic opportunities for the region, and fill an important need in the community for youth sports," says Renae Billings, economic development specialist.

"This should also help us attract tourism dollars to the region," adds Councilmember Pete Groetken. "Tournaments and other events will bring out-of-town teams and families to Sioux City and generate economic activity for area businesses."

Developers Mike Hesse, Jeff Carlson, and Dustin Cooper expect construction to begin soon and wrap up next summer.

ROAD REPORT

INTERSTATE 29 efforts continue from the Floyd River to Wesley Parkway this summer and on to Hamilton Boulevard next summer. A frontage road provides southbound access to I-29, as Pierce Street's southbound ramp remains closed. "I-29 reconstruction should be finished by late 2019 and provide a safe, modern roadway that serves the region for decades to come," says IDOT Transportation Planner Dakin Schultz.

CITY STREETS are under construction, as crews replace and repair aging infrastructures. "Projects will improve overall drivability of streets, storm water management, lighting, and more," notes City Engineer Gordon Phair. West 7th, Pierce Street, Morningside Avenue, and Bridgeport West Industrial Park are the highest profile projects.

HISTORIC THEATRE

Over 100 years ago, the stately structure at 625 Douglas St. was Sioux City's first auditorium. Now, an \$11.5 million renovation by LAMB Arts Regional Theatre & School will restore this beautiful historic venue.

"Returning this building to the way it looked in 1909 provides incredible opportunities," says Diana Wooley, CEO of LAMB Arts Ltd., who started LAMB with her husband, Russell Wooley, in 1979. "We're also reimagining the interior to reveal new and exciting ways the arts can enhance our community." Plans include a 250-seat thrust theatre, two smaller theatres, dressing rooms, rehearsal areas, and classrooms—all surrounding a skylit two-story atrium and open staircase.

"An economic development loan from the city gave this project a jump start," says Mayor Pro Tem Dan Moore, "but it is LAMB Arts' vision that will impact the entire community."

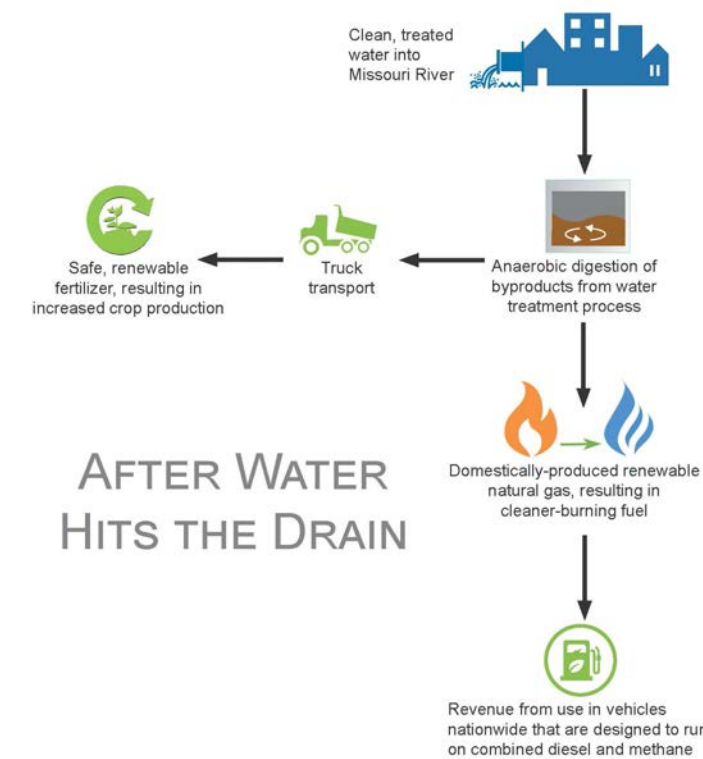


LAMB co-founders Russ and Diana Wooley are planning a new home for LAMB Arts Ltd.

THE NEXT ETHANOL?

A gas byproduct from the Sioux City wastewater treatment plant could soon be fueling vehicles across the country. Here's how: the waste in the wastewater is converted to various byproducts including biosolids (which are beneficially reused on farmland), carbon dioxide, methane, and other gasses. The methane can now be purified to pipeline-quality standards and then injected into a pipeline to be used in various locations around the U.S.

"Just like ethanol, this product meets renewable fuel standards and can be used as a fuel source in communities throughout the nation," says Phil Gates, senior project engineer at Bartlett & West, the city's partner in the undertaking. "Sioux City is positioning itself as a visionary in this area. Because this generates revenue, the project will pay for itself over time."



The city sees benefits, explains Utilities Director Mark Simms. "We can become more environmentally friendly, which has been a goal of our City Council, while also generating a new revenue stream." Added incentives? Tax credits, new jobs, and lower taxes for local residents.

Sioux City is smaller than other cities (like Topeka, Kan. and Fort Worth, Texas) pursuing renewable fuels partnerships, but the community is uniquely positioned. "Our facility treats waste from a number of food industries, which results in higher gas production than is typical," notes Simms, "so we're producing more than enough gas to justify this project."

The city is also teaming with Bartlett & West to reuse the carbon dioxide, thereby reducing emissions.



IMPROVEMENTS GRANTED

The City of Sioux City has earned the 1,000 Friends of Iowa Best Development Award for an ambitious undertaking to improve water quality and add green space on the Promenade plaza.

"The award recognizes our commitment to preserving the environment and enhancing the downtown experience for residents and visitors," shares Councilmember Alex Watters.

The grant-funded Promenade project captures storm water runoff in a series of bioretention cells that facilitate drainage and filter pollutants. Educational signs explain the process and identify native plants in the space.

Building on the success of Promenade efforts, the city has received a \$100,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture for similar water quality improvements with added green space at the site of the planned Expo Center in the former stockyards area.

HOMETOWN HEALTHY

At Iowa's Healthiest State Initiative program this spring, Sioux City earned the first Healthy Hometown Community Award, and it also received \$5,000 to continue its endeavors.

"Recreation and healthy lifestyle initiatives are a big part of what Sioux City has to offer," says Mayor Bob Scott. "We're honored to be recognized for the commitment of everyone who is working to improve the well-being of our community each day."

"In recent years, we've focused on things like Cone Park, riverfront development, trail connectivity, and improved parks and programming," adds Parks and Recreation Manager Angel Wallace, who submitted the nomination with Kevin Grieme from Siouxland District Health. "All those things make our community a place where people want to live."

Other examples include cooperative community gardens, smoke-free policies in rental units, safe routes to schools, and healthy options at local restaurants and Food Truck Fridays.

"The Healthy Hometown Award acknowledges the work done by many partners—public and private entities as well as volunteer organizations," shares Grieme. "It was a team effort."



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

SOCIAL OUTLET

One was not enough. When Capt. Rex Mueller became chief last fall, the Sioux City Police Department had one officer handling its website and social media.



Mueller wanted more. Today six people manage SCPD social media as part of their jobs.

"With the 24-hour news cycle, it's important that we respond with timely information, answers, and advice," he says. "Our goal is to connect with our citizens, quickly list our activities, and chronicle incidents so people have a reliable source. So far this has been successful."

The SCPD has 19,000+ Facebook followers.

K-9 PATROL



Officer Jake Noltze and K-9 Odin.

The Sioux City Police Department has four patrol K-9s trained in narcotics detection and tracking. Each dog is partnered with an officer from the SCPD. "Our K-9 units remove a large quantity of illegal drugs from the street, and they are also used to track a suspect who has just committed a crime and run away on foot," says Sgt. Tom Gill, who supervises the K-9 unit.



SCPD LIVES ITS MISSION

"The public expects a lot from its officers," says Sioux City Police Chief Rex Mueller, who joined the department in 1996 and began his current post last September. "There are so many roles we're expected to occupy...and we try to do them all."

It's a balancing act. Neighborhood meet-and-greets on one hand. Strict law enforcement on the other. And everything in between.

"Our mission talks about partnering with community, building relationships, and promoting service with an emphasis on human dignity and respect of our citizens," shares Mueller. "Officers won't say, 'We don't do that.' They're on 24/7."

PARTNERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

"We really like to meet citizens and youth when they're not in crisis," Mueller says. "Those interactions help us build meaningful relationships with people we serve."

Seeking to get a foot in the door, the SCPD gets involved with hundreds of church efforts, cultural fairs, and neighborhood meetings each year. Why? Because they allow for outreach to diverse groups throughout the community.

"Some individuals come from places where law enforcement isn't positive," notes Mueller. "It's up to us to build those bridges...to build trust. We're not there to intimidate. We are there to engage."

He says the department takes a similar approach with youth efforts. "We're making an investment in our youth...not only to promote safety and security, but also to develop lifelong relationships with them."

PROMOTE COMMUNITY SERVICE

The SCPD is a champion for community service. Collectively, officers work with countless agencies to make a difference. Capt. Lisa Claeys, for example, helped form the Siouxland Street Project, which unites law enforcement, community resources, and local residents to create meaningful solutions for Sioux City's homeless.

Officers also get involved individually. "Across the board, our officers have a spirit of volunteerism and service," shares Mueller. "They're helping in their churches, coaching their kids' teams, serving in the National Guard. They go beyond their duties to benefit their communities in so many ways."

PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Law enforcement and community safety are primary goals for the SCPD, which responds to an average of 240 dispatched and/or self-initiated calls for service per day.

"Nationwide, there are some departments that don't respond to, or even report, every call," says Mueller. "We take every call that comes in. We work hard to meet all of the citizens' needs."

Based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Crime in the U.S. Report, Sioux City's numbers remain low compared with national averages and crime stats in other larger Iowa cities.

"The crime rate can express one thing, but how do citizens really feel?" questions Mueller. In a recent survey, Sioux City residents reported feeling safe and represented by their police department. Still, violent crimes happen in safe communities.

"Violent crime is hard to predict and respond to in a proactive manner, so our best approach is to identify major offenders...so they don't victimize others," Mueller explains. Often referred to as "information based policing," the process relies heavily on SCPD's lead Crime Analyst Marie Divis and her team to use existing police reports and intelligence to direct policing efforts that deal with major offenders.

"We plan for things we pray will never happen," says Mueller. "We are always adjusting and being progressive in our policing. Providing the finest training leads to professionalism."

Officers partner not only with one another, but also with counterparts in neighboring tri-state communities and county, state, and federal entities ranging from the Woodbury County Sheriff to the FBI. "What impacts any one of us impacts all of us," notes Mueller. "Working together makes us stronger."

ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE

If Mueller could remind Sioux City residents of one thing, it's this: "The officers who serve the department are your neighbors. Their kids go to school here. They come to work with great passion to keep this community safe for their families as well as everyone else's families."

Simple yet profound, this truth puts everything in perspective.

"We live our mission, knowing we're not separated from our community but tied to our community. And the more closely we are tied to our community, the better agency we are."

KIDS CONNECTION

"The Sioux City Police Department has long engaged the youth of Sioux City," says Lt. Brad Bollinger, "and recently the SCPD has placed an even greater focus on youth development."

In its partnership with Beyond the Bell, officers visit schools to help kids with homework, play games, and provide positive role models. They also read to children in Head Start classrooms and launched Books for Kids to strengthen ties with youth and assist early literacy efforts.



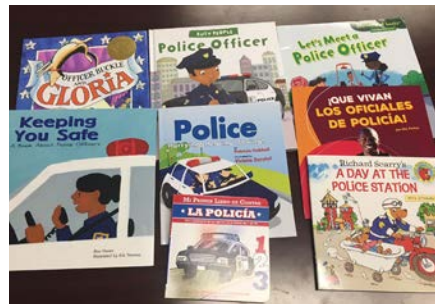
"There are so many children in Sioux City who do not meet basic reading benchmarks," Bollinger explains, "and the SCPD wants to help."

Here's how: As officers connect with kids through service agencies, community programs, and home calls, they give them free books with pro-law enforcement messages.

"Other police departments hand out books, but we're the only one we know of sharing police-related children's books," notes Bollinger.

That's key, as it helps kids establish a positive attitude toward police.

"Our outreach efforts are all about making an impact in the community," Bollinger says. "We look at quality of life issues such as literacy and homelessness, and we try to be a force of positive change."



SUMMER IN THE CITY

See what's waiting for you this summer in downtown Sioux City!



FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS are back! Explore your options at the new Pearl Street Park, located at the corner of 7th and Pearl Street, where they'll run 11 a.m.–1 p.m. on Fridays from June 1 to Aug. 24.

DOWNTOWN LIVE brings concerts to the lawn of the Sioux City Public Museum at 4th and Nebraska Streets again this summer. Formerly known as "Fridays on the Promenade," the concert series runs on selected Thursdays from 6–8 p.m.

FARMERS MARKET season is upon us! Check it out now through Oct. 27 at the corner of TriView Avenue and Pearl Street every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

MAKING A SPLASH

As outdoor temperatures climb, Sioux City will see new splash pads in Cone Park and Cook Park this summer and one in Rose Hill Park by next summer.

"Splash pads provide water recreation that is fun and engaging... perfect for cooling in the hot summer months," says Matt Salvatore, parks and recreation director. "Best of all, they are free and accessible to everyone."

Cone Park's splash pad opens Memorial Day weekend, while Cook Park's water area opens in early June. Along with these newest water amenities, the city runs splash pads at Dale Street Park and Leeds Park. For park and splash pad hours, visit www.sioux-city.org/parks.

BEYOND THE BOOKS

Last year, kids logged 4,647 hours of reading time in the Sioux City Public Library's summer reading programs. Books, however, are just the beginning of what this amazing community resource offers.

"People who haven't been to the Sioux City Public Library for a while may be surprised by all the other services we have," says Director Helen Rigdon.

- **FREE MUSIC STREAMING:** Full-service cardholders can download five free songs per week and stream nearly 13 million songs 24/7 using Freegal® Music.
- **LANGUAGE LEARNING:** A new database provides immersive and in-depth learning for over 100 languages plus English as a Second Language instruction in 25+ languages.
- **E-BOOK APP:** "Libby" is an innovative but easy-to-use app that allows users to browse, borrow, and read the library's vast collection of e-titles.

Sioux City Public Library also provides public computers and printers, one-on-one technology tutoring, literacy classes, free meeting rooms, and community-based programming.



CHANGE AGENT

Get ready, Sioux City! "There are changes on the horizon for the Tyson Events Center and Orpheum Theatre!" predicts Erika Newton, general manager of Spectra Venue Management, which now oversees the Tyson and Orpheum.

The first? Heightened security, as both facilities added metal detectors earlier this year. Civic leaders believe most people not only understand increased safety precautions, but they also appreciate them. Thus, the \$100,000 investment was worthwhile given the security this provides to patrons, performers, and employees.

Next up? More shows and concerts. "Due to Spectra's network of resources, we have opportunities to secure shows and events in new and innovative ways," Newton says. "We're looking forward to increased content as we get up and running."

And there's more! Planners are working on new food and beverage options at the Tyson and pursuing partnerships that will bring more local personality into the arena.

LITTER DASH



A total of 1,800 volunteers joined forces for the second annual Litter Dash on April 20.

"Having so many businesses, schools, and civic groups get involved shows there are lots of people who want to make a positive impact on the environment and their community," says Councilmember Rhonda Capron. "It shows their commitment to making Sioux City a more beautiful place to live."

Clean-up crews covered downtown Sioux City, Perry Creek Trail, Outer Drive, Floyd Boulevard, Glen Oaks Boulevard, Hamilton Boulevard, the Leeds area, and seven local parks.

"We can all take the initiative in our own neighborhoods," notes Melissa Campbell, environmental analyst and Litter Dash coordinator. "Reducing litter is not only good for the environment, but it also boosts community pride and has a positive impact on economic development."

FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT THESE VENUE WEBSITES:



DOWNTOWN
downtownsiouxcity.com • 252.0014

SIoux CITY ART CENTER
siouxcityartcenter.org • 279.6272

SIoux CITY MUSEUM
siouxcitymuseum.org • 279.6174

SIoux CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
siouxcitylibrary.org • 255.2933, ext. 2231

CONVENTION CENTER
siouxcityconventioncenter.com • 279.4800

TYSON EVENTS CENTER
tysoncenter.com

ORPHEUM THEATRE
orpheumlive.com

PARKS & RECREATION
sioux-city.org/parks • 279.6126

LEWIS & CLARK BALL PARK
xsbaseball.com • 277.9467



RIVERFRONT SHOWCASE

Sioux City's riverfront park is starting to take shape! A schematic design for the park features open green spaces, shelters, overlooks, and other interactive features throughout the 12-acre site where the Argosy Casino used to sit along the Missouri River.

"The riverfront project will have an impact on Sioux City for generations to come, which is why we made great efforts to gain input throughout the community to assure we have a design that everyone will be proud of," says Cindy Brewer, Riverfront Project Committee member and Parks and Recreational Advisory Board president. "The park will serve as a great visitor draw and provide a beautiful and functional space for unlimited activities and events."



The city has tentatively earmarked at least \$8 million to fund the project, but with \$6.5 million in base costs, planners will seek additional dollars through grants and donations.

Because it is visible from Interstate 29 and easily accessible from downtown Sioux City, the riverfront will become a new gateway to the community.

GOOGLE YOUR BUS ROUTE

Going somewhere via Sioux City Transit? Check out the new Google Maps feature, with up-to-the-minute info on bus routes, arrivals/departures, schedule changes, and more. Visit www.sioux-city.org/trip-planner to explore!



SIoux CITY CITY COUNCIL



Pete Groetken • Rhonda Capron • Alex Watters • Bob Scott • Dan Moore
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FIRST RESPONDERS

When Sioux City's private emergency ambulance provider discontinued service at the start of this year, the City Council voted to run ambulance service through Sioux City Fire Rescue.



"Our goals were to stabilize the service and provide outstanding care for our citizens, so it was an easy decision," says Mayor Pro Tem Dan Moore.

"Sioux City Fire Rescue has responded to emergency medical calls since the late 1960s when we were the city's first response units," adds Fire Chief Tom Everett. "This was a natural fit with our people, our resources, and the work we do every day."

As 2018 started, the new Emergency Medical Services division had hired 27 people, relocated ambulances to the fire stations, and began answering as SCFR units. It anticipates fielding about 7,000 calls in its first year.



Mayor's Youth Commission members with Parks and Recreation Director Matt Salvatore.

HONORING YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

The Sioux City Mayor's Youth Commission recently received a service club award from the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association for significant contributions to Parks and Recreation efforts in the city. Specifically, members were recognized for raising over \$10,000 to create Sioux City's first disc golf course in Sertoma Park, followed by a second course in Grandview Park.

Mayor's Youth Commission involves over 100 students from Sioux City high schools. Last year, MYC members gave 4,000+ hours and served at 40 different city-sponsored events.

"This group teaches so much about leadership, civic engagement, and community spirit," shares Mayor Bob Scott. "It also shows them what city government looks like and how they can make a difference through involvement."