

March 2024

Department Report

City of Muscatine



Department of Administration

City Administrator

The City Administrator's office is responsible for the overall management and administrative coordination of the activities of the City of Muscatine. The Office focuses on providing transparent and efficient city services that meet or exceed community expectations.



March Highlights

- Presented 41 agenda items for consideration by City Council during their regular meetings.
- Assisted with in-depth discussions on Palms Drive Development, Slough pumping, Miracle Field Project, Parks and Recreation Capital Projects, and funding for the Muscatine Human Society.
- Responded to numerous citizen and City Council requests and concerns.

Human Resources Division

March Highlights

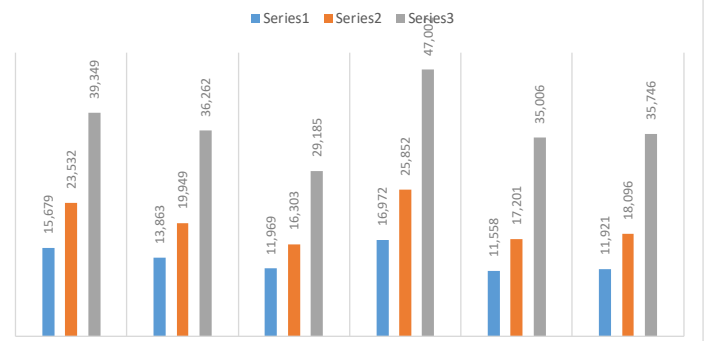
- The City has several seasonal positions posted and the Parks Department is in the process of hiring for these openings as the summer season moves closer. To view and apply for open positions visit <https://www.muscatineiowa.gov/1598/Career-Center>
- Applications are also being taken for firefighter and transit driver.
- The City welcomed five employees in March including firefighters, an administrative secretary, and a lead grant program manager.
- HR Department staff oversaw and participated in the promotional process for Police Lieutenant.
- One hundred and ninety five applications for employment were received in March.

Communications Division

March Highlights

- Produced and distributed 32 press releases to media and Notify Me subscribers.
- Created and published 136 posts on social media (47 Facebook, 33 Instagram, 42 Twitter, 2 LinkedIn, and 4 YouTube).
- Ended the month of March with 11,506 (+20 from end of February) followers on Facebook, 1,635 (+4) on Instagram, 1,529 (+4) on Twitter, 429 on LinkedIn (+13), and 599 (+5) on YouTube.
- Continued monitoring use of Civic Clerk, Muscatine Connect (powered by SeeClickFix), and Municode.
- Continued development of Marketing & Branding initiative.
- Continued work with Animal Control on PetData.
- Continued to work with departments on improvements to department website pages.

CITY OF MUSCATINE WEB SITE TRAFFIC



The City Administrator's Monthly Report is intended to provide a brief summary of City activities, with links to additional information where possible. Due to the variety and complexity of City functions, however, the report is not all-encompassing. Please always feel free to contact the City of Muscatine for more information or with questions or concerns. View past and upcoming events on the City's calendar. Any feedback can be provided to the City Administrator's office by sending an email to feedback@muscatineiowa.gov.

Department of Administration

Finance/Parking Division

Summary of Activities	July 2023	August 2023	Sept. 2023	Oct 2023	Nov. 2023	Dec. 2023	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	Fiscal Year
Accounts Payable Checks & ACH Payments	692	583	583	577	575	655	478	519	558				5,220
Payroll Checks and Direct Deposits	863	835	1155*	728	710	688	656	655	1,008*				5,135
Accounts Receivable Invoices Sent	155	262	292	197	233	196	153	285	186				1,959
Finance Cash Register Transactions	454	440	487	321	486	425	479	503	530				4,125
Housing Receipt Transactions	189	182	192	181	178	190	186	184	190				1,672
Purchase Orders Processed	286	322	267	306	239	208	246	196	273				2,343
*Payroll checks and direct deposits for September 2023 & March 2024 included 3 payrolls.													

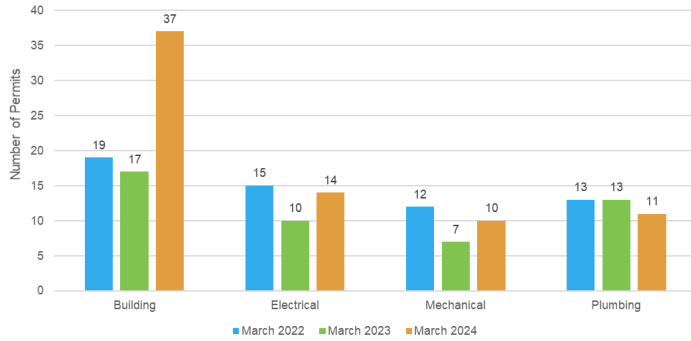
March Highlights

- Prepared Amendment #1 to the FY 24 Budget and the FY25 Budget on the Department of Management website and prepared the notices for public hearings.
- Entered the revised estimate revenues and expenditures into the Springbrook financial software.
- Submitted required documentation for the Hershey Manor HVAC project reimbursement requests from the re-financed loan proceeds held by Grandbridge Financial.
- Submitted the actuarial report and supporting documents to the Iowa Insurance Division for the 509A-Iowa Public Body Self-Insured Group Health-care plan due March 30th.
- Prepared and submitted the Iowa Individual Health Benefit Reinsurance Report due March 15th.
- Worked with the City's bond attorney and financial consultant on the documents needed for the pre-levy of taxes for the May 2024 bond issue.
- Prepared and submitted the Landfill Assurance report due April 1.
- Implemented the Positive Pay system for the City's General Operating Account at Midwest One Bank in an effort to reduce or eliminate fraudulent check transactions

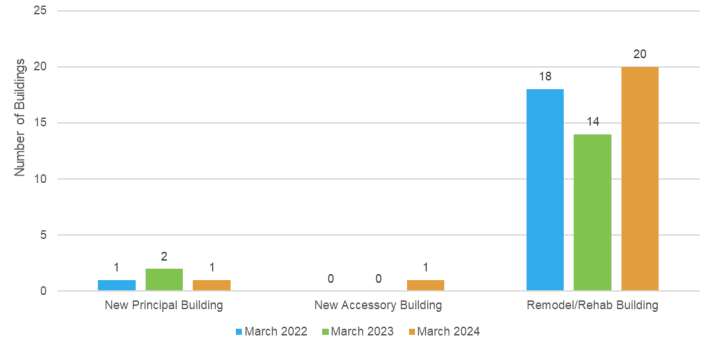


Department of Community Development

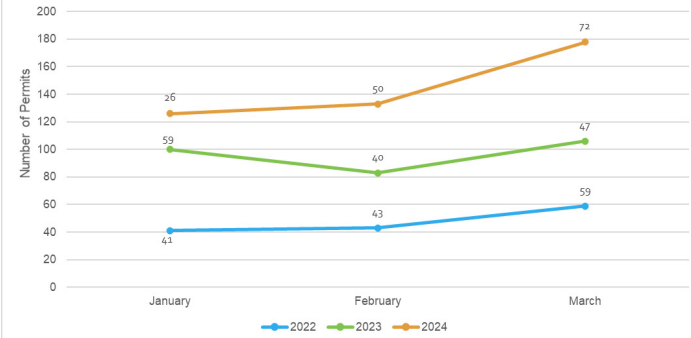
Permits Issued Monthly



Monthly Commercial Building Construction Projects

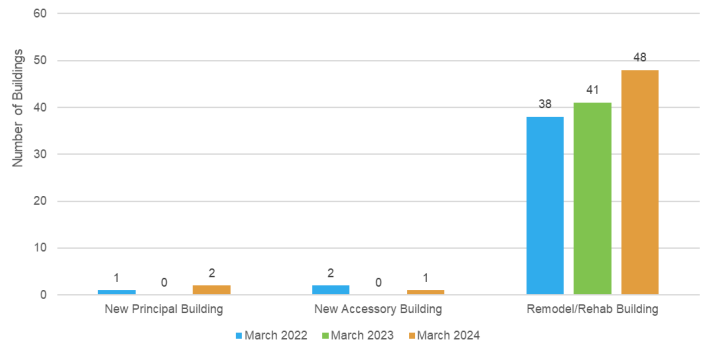


Permits Issued Per Month YTD

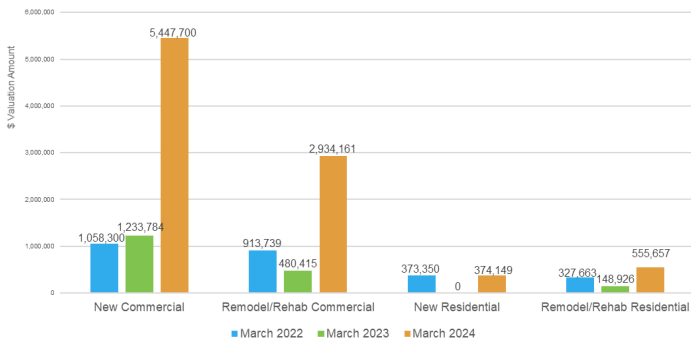


- Principal Building defined as the construction of new building on a previously vacant lot/parcel.
- Accessory Building defined as buildings constructed in addition to the principal building such as garages, storage buildings, shelters, etc.
- Remodel/Rehab defined as buildings undergoing any alterations whether it be for a remodel or repair.

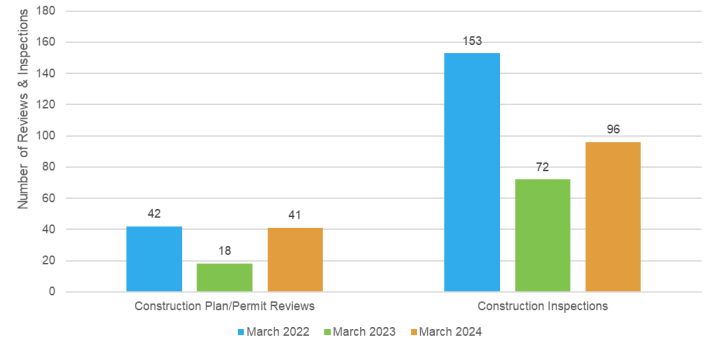
Monthly Residential Building Construction Projects



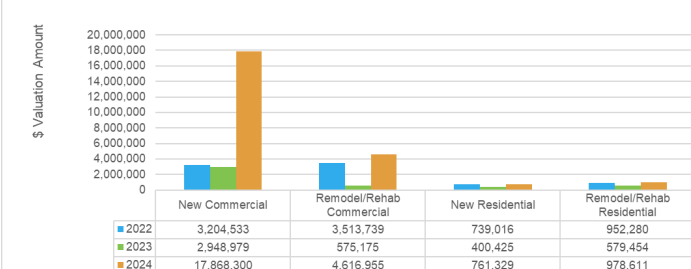
Monthly Construction Project Valuations



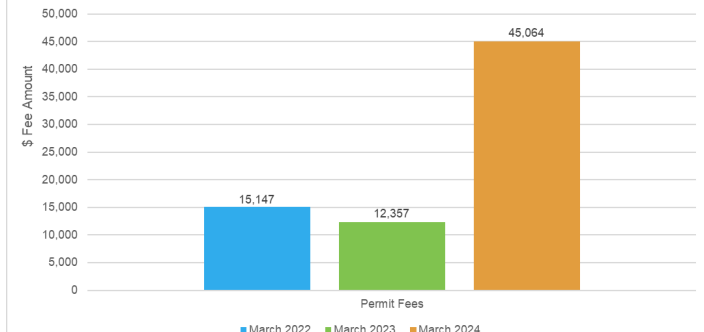
Monthly Construction Plan/Permit Reviews and Inspections



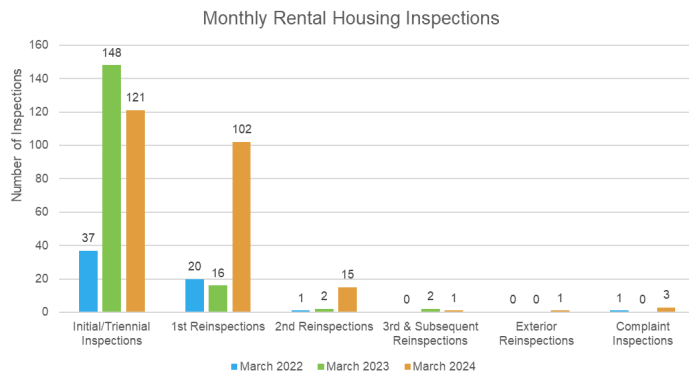
YTD Construction Project Valuations



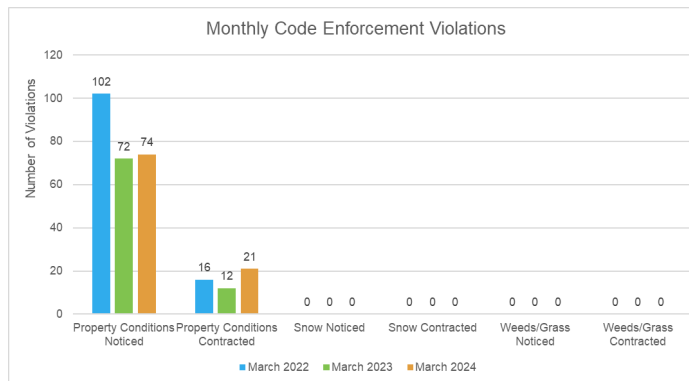
Monthly Permit Fees Collected



Department of Community Development



Property Conditions defined as Nuisance Abatements and other Code Violations including but not limited to dangerous tree trimming/removal, zoning regulation violations, etc.

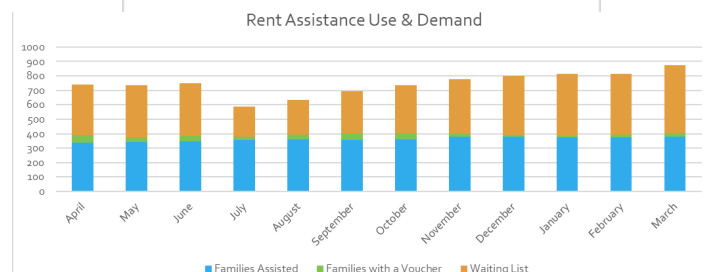
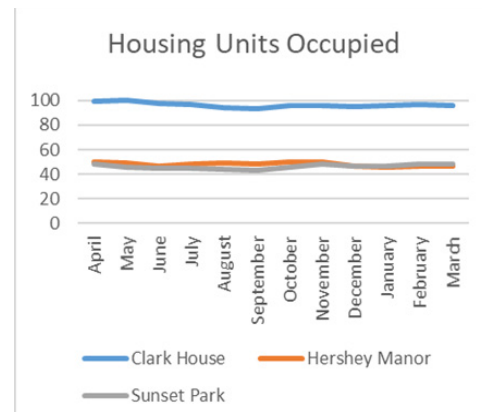


Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency

- The Maintenance Supervisor and Housing Programs Supervisor completed HUD Procurement Training
- The Housing Programs Supervisor has provided tours to management companies considering assuming Hershey Manor operations
- Council awarded the contract for the Clark House elevator modernization project
- 3 new family began receiving tenant-based rental assistance and 1 individual was issued a stability voucher to be rehoused in supportive housing after experiencing homelessness
- 10 families were issued vouchers to begin looking for eligible rental units
- 167 families were invited to a briefing in April
- 33 individuals attended a Step Ahead class
- 7 families completed the first-time homebuyer course
- Occupancy stayed at 96%
- Completed 88 workers in an average of 1.3 days
- Maintenance completed turnover of 2 units while continuing work on 5 additional units
- Paid \$163,328 for housing and utility assistance on behalf of 379 families
- \$6,613 was deposited into escrow accounts for families working toward self-sufficiency
- Earned \$25,585 with an 90% proration of administrative fees

Department of Community Development

- The Lead Program Manager, Arthur Bell, started and is preparing necessary documents to open the program this spring.
- 5 structures in the Mulberry Neighborhood were tested for asbestos before they are demolished to prepare the lots for construction of new homes
- The Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Grant Program Manager started and began working on the implementation policies
- The bidding process for 10 City owned properties concluded with receipt of bids on 2 of them. The remaining 8 properties have been reposted with a closing date of May 7.
- Notices to repair have been sent to owners of 220 Iowa Avenue to complete structural repairs and 417 Mulberry Avenue, a long derelict building
- The City's Historical Preservation Commission was awarded a Certified Local Government Grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority for an intensive survey of underground railroad sites in Muscatine County and to host the 2026 Historic Preservation Summit in Muscatine



Department of Parks and Recreation

Park Administration Division

The main office is open to the public with regular office hours Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There continues to be many requests to hold special events on public property. The complete special event listing can be found at our [website](#). If you wish to hold a special event within the parks system, please contact our office at 563-263-0241 or by email at parksoffice@muscatineiowa.gov. Please enjoy the many services provided through the Parks and Recreation Department and contact us to let us know about your experiences as we love to hear from you!

Subject	March Results
Pearl City Station	9 Reservations
Riverview Center	10 Reservations
Shelters	12 Reservations
Dog Park Passes	639 Pet Licenses as of 03/31/24

Park Maintenance Division

The City of Muscatine has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for its 31st consecutive year. Staff took time to transplant 40 trees from the tree nursery to various locations at the Municipal Golf Course. Staff has also been busy with cleaning landscape beds throughout the community and preparing them for the spring season. The petunias for the hanging baskets have arrived, and have been transplanted in preparation for the hanging basket program in downtown Muscatine. The tennis courts at Weed Park and the pickleball courts at Taylor Park have been cleaned and the nets have been installed in preparation for the upcoming season.

Repair staff has been working hard at solving light outages throughout the park sites.

Subject	Result
Seasonal Employee Recruitment	21 Seasonal Staff Hired

Cemetery Division

Greenwood Cemetery remains open to the public for walkers, bicyclists and the community's cemetery needs. The 2024 spring cemetery cleanup was successfully completed in late March. The cemetery steps were re-opened to the public in late March. Staff worked on settling and leveling graves throughout the cemetery. Staff also worked on repairs and re-setting markers throughout the cemetery.

Subject	March Results
Cremains	1 Cremains Burial
Full Casket	2 Full Casket Burials
County Assisted	1 County Assisted Burial
Grave Spaces	5 Grave Spaces Sold
Niche Spaces	1 Niche Space Sold

Boat Harbor/Marina Divisions

Staff is preparing the operations for the 2024 season. Staff is adjusting docks daily with the rising river levels. Long Dock and Houseboat Dock boat slips are available for rent for the 2024 season. Please contact the Parks & Recreation office for more information or to make arrangements. The Marina has gas and diesel for sale and has a pump out station for boater's convenience. Requests for fueling and pump out services may be made by contacting the Parks and Recreation office.

Subject	Result
Long Dock Slips (48 Available)	4 Rented 44 Available
Houseboat Dock Slips (8 Available)	0 Rented 8 Available

Recreation Division

Youth and adult recreation programs and special events continue to be offered. The Easter Egg Hunt at Weed Park on March 23 has 275 attendees despite cold temperatures. Parks and Recreation at the Spring Market at the Muscatine Mall on March 23 had 60 attendees for a youth craft event. Current programs taking place include Youth Gymnastics, Adult Co-ed Volleyball Leagues, and the Walking Club. Registration for Tee-Ball opened early March and has 41 enrolled as of 3/31/2024. The Spring/Summer brochures have been delivered and ready for distribution to schools & businesses in the Muscatine area. The job fair at the Muscatine Municipal Golf Course was attended by 15

Department of Parks and Recreation

individuals in early March. The Program Supervisor attended the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association Spring Conference in Des Moines at the end of March.

Aquatics Division

The Aquatic Center staff recruitment began in January with seasonal applications being sent to previous staff and 2023 new applicants. Pool Party reservations are available to be made by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department office at (563) 263-0241. The Program Supervisor attended CPO CEU Training in March. 18 Pool Parties have been scheduled at the Muscatine Aquatic Center. Swim Lesson registered begins on May 1.

Subject	Result
Lifeguards	31 Lifeguards hired in 2023
Pool Party Reservations	18 Pool Parties Booked for 2024
Swim Lesson Enrollment	2024 Swim Lesson Registrations go live on May 1, 2024

Wellness Division

Biometric Screening signup began in March for the planned dates of April 23-25 at three (3) locations for employees and spouses with 97 individuals signed up as of March 31. The Wellness Committee had its first session in March and is scheduled for monthly meetings on the third (3rd) Tuesday of each month.

Kent Stein Division

Kent Stein Park opened the last week in March. The park was ready for our first softball tournament for the 2024 season, but mother nature had other plans and the tournament had to cancel due to cold temperatures. The park remained open for the last full week of March with scheduled usage. Staff continues to make improvements to the park facilities for the season. Some tasks that been working on leveling infields, changing light bulbs, picking up debris and preparing restrooms. Supplies, chemicals and fertilizers are still coming in. Staff has applied our spring pre-emergent needs. Staff finished the spring start up list for Kent Stein and have started a follow-up list of new items that need attention. We are still interviewing and hiring staff for weekend tournaments.

Soccer Complex Division

The Complex opened with High School Varsity Girls on March 27. Supplies, chemicals and fertilizers continue to come in for the 2024 season. We are finishing the work on our winter maintenance on small equipment. Staff strings and paints the field in preparation for our season opener with Muscatine High School. Staff completed the Soccer Complex start up list and is waiting for better weather to complete the remainder. Soccer goal nets are being installed on both the Main Complex and Soccer West facility. Staff has applied our spring pre-emergent application of fertilizer in the rough areas. The sprinkler system has been started with Mid America Sports group. There were a couple of issues and a crew from Mid America Sports made repairs from the punch list. We are still recruiting staff for onsite supervisors for the Soccer Complex.

Golf Divisions

The Golf Course remained open in March with a wide range of weather conditions throughout the month. Outing agreement forms continue to be turned in for 2024. There have been 203 season passes purchased in full and another 9 on the payment plans. Our cart fleet was delivered throughout the month. We had the 2nd most rounds for March since 2012 this year. The course will host the River Valley Conference Championships on April 30 and May 1. Staff continues to fertilize tees, collars, fairways and rough. All sprinkler heads were cut around to make mowing easier for staff. Greens were verticut and sanded to smooth out the surface to maximize performance for golfers. Staff continued to take down dead trees with the goal of planting new ones in the fall.

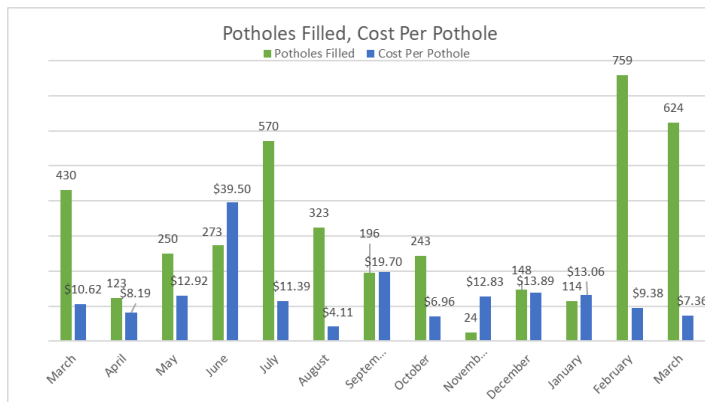
Subject	Result
Outings	16 Outings Scheduled for 2024
Leagues	6 Leagues Scheduled for 2024
Season Passes	203 Season Passes Sold in 2024
Rounds Played	1,374 rounds played in March

Department of Public Works

The Public Works Department is composed of eight divisions which include: Administration, Building & Grounds Maintenance, Collection & Drainage, Engineering, Roadway Maintenance, Solid Waste, Transit (Muscabus), and Vehicle Maintenance. For budgeting purposes several of these divisions are broken down into subdivisions. For the purpose of the monthly report there will be several divisions that will be reporting consistently, while others may only be reporting on special events or accomplishments.

Roadway Maintenance Division March 2024:

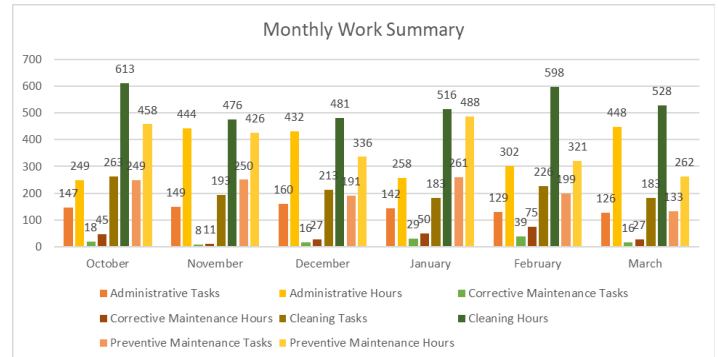
Roadway Maintenance includes activities related to street repairs, snow removal, traffic control, and street cleaning. They are responsible for over 254 lane miles of streets within the city limits.



This measure indicates the number of potholes filled, and the approximate cost to fill each pothole. Beginning January 20, 2021, a "standard" pothole is defined as being the size of large pizza box. Potholes will be divided no smaller than one half of a pizza box. Beginning in April of 2022, we began tracking pavement repairs separately from potholes. This has lowered the pothole numbers as many of them were previously counted in larger pavement patches.

Building and Grounds Activities March 2024:

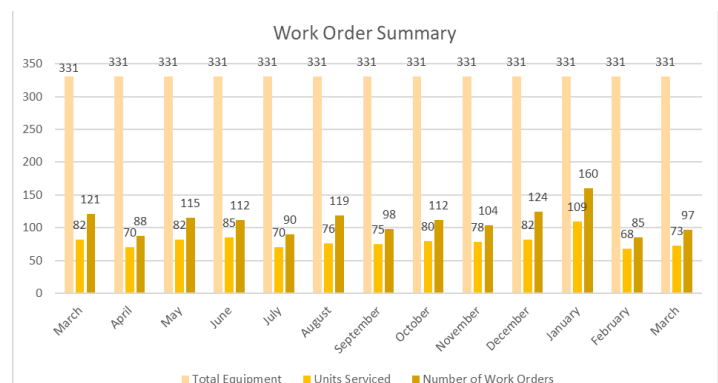
The Buildings and Grounds Division of the Public Works Department is responsible for the upkeep and repair of city facilities, grounds, and equipment. The division is responsible for maintaining the following facilities and grounds: Art Center, City Hall, Library, Public Safety Building, Public Works, South Fire Station, and certain maintenance functions at the Airport.



This chart indicates the number of work activities and the hours committed to them per month. Administrative tasks include ordering equipment and materials, requesting and receiving bids and quotes for work or supplies, project oversight, delivery of building supplies, training and paid time off. Corrective maintenance tasks are unscheduled repairs or work done on as-needed or emergency basis. Preventive maintenance tasks include routine, scheduled maintenance items. Cleaning includes building cleaning and janitorial services. This chart is being capped at six month intervals so that the numbers are legible.

Vehicle Maintenance Division March 2024:

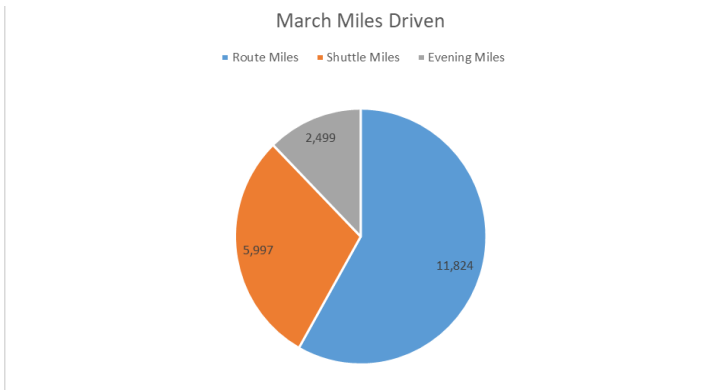
The Vehicle Maintenance Division services and repairs approximately 331 pieces of equipment and vehicles from all city departments with the exception of the fire trucks and ambulances.



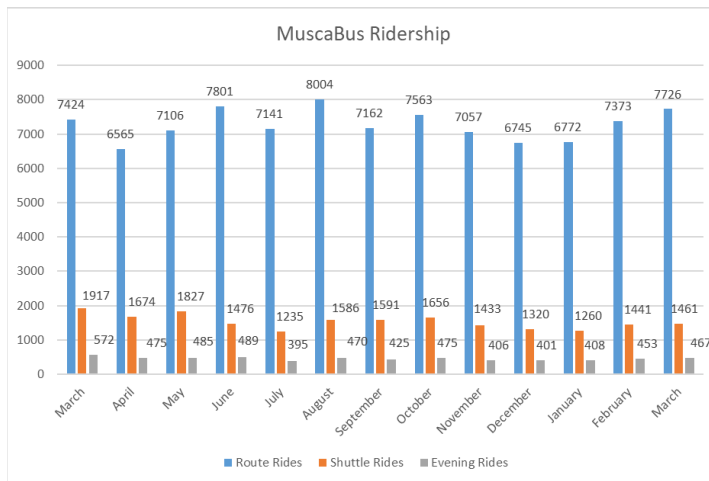
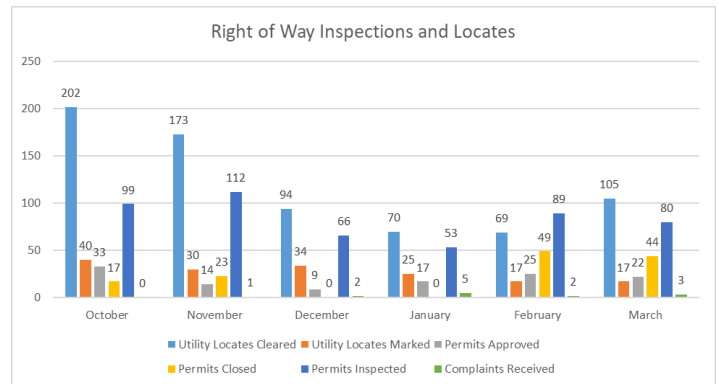
Department of Public Works

Transit Summary of Operations for March 2024:

MuscaBus is the city's transit service. It operates four fixed routes, shuttle service, and evening service.



The following chart describes the monthly activities of the Right of Way Inspector:



This chart is being capped at six month intervals so that the numbers are legible.

- "Utility Locates Cleared" indicates the areas that have no utilities to be marked
- "Utility Locates Marked" are instances where the inspector marked utilities in the field
- "Permits Approved" are Right of Way Permits that were reviewed, approved, and issued
- "Permits Closed" are Right of Way Permits where the work has been completed
- "Permits Inspected" are Right of Way Permits where inspections have been made and recorded
- "Complaints Received" are complaints from residents or businesses that have been inspected

Engineering Division March 2024:

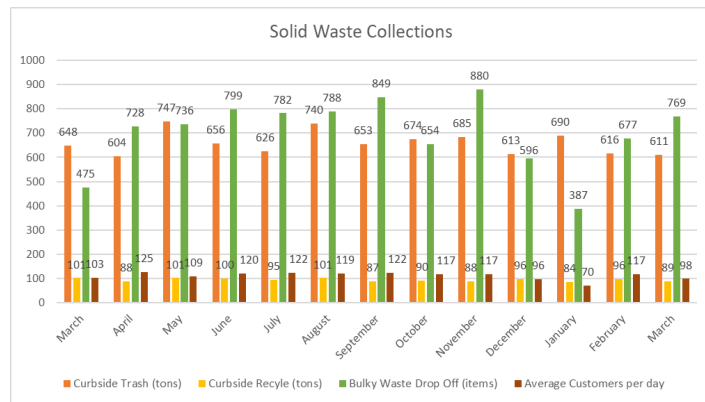
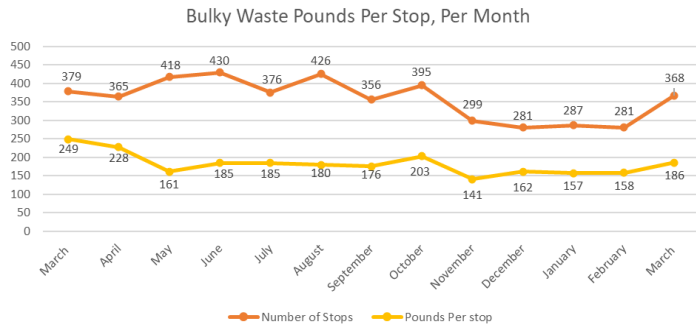
The following table describes current and proposed construction projects and their status:

Project Name	Project Start	Percent Complete	Project Notes
West Hill Sewer Separation Phase 6 A&B	July 2023	45%	Sanitary Sewer and Water Line installation on Sycamore
West Hill Sewer Separation Phase 6C	July 2024	0%	Sewer Separation Project on multiple streets
Carver Corner Roundabout	TBD	0%	In Design
Isett Avenue Reconstruction	TBD	0%	In Design
Phase 2 Fulliam Ave. Reconstruction	TBD	0%	In Design

Department of Public Works

Solid Waste Division Report March 2024:

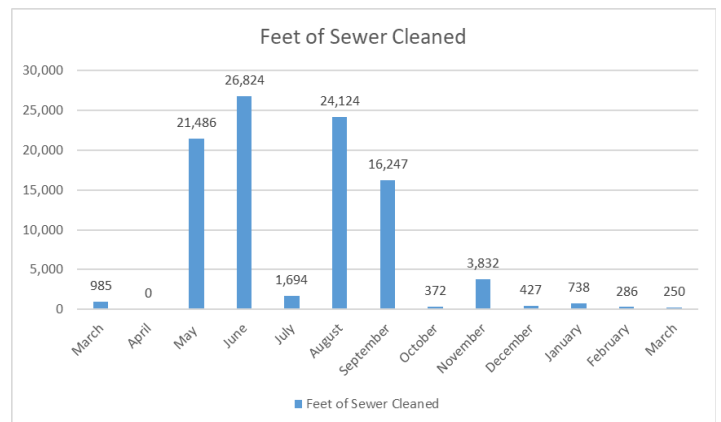
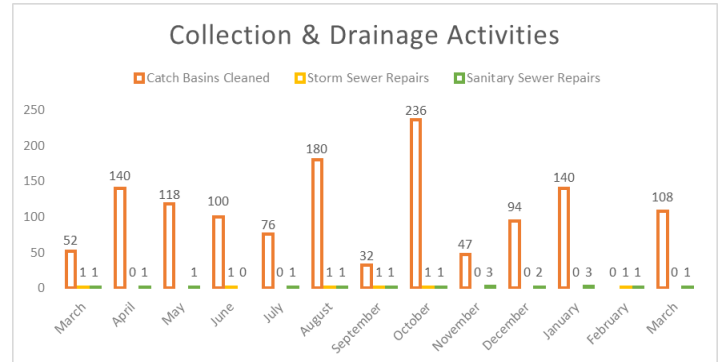
The Solid Waste Division consists of activities related to refuse collection, transfer station, compost site, and landfill, as well as overseeing the contracted recycling collection.



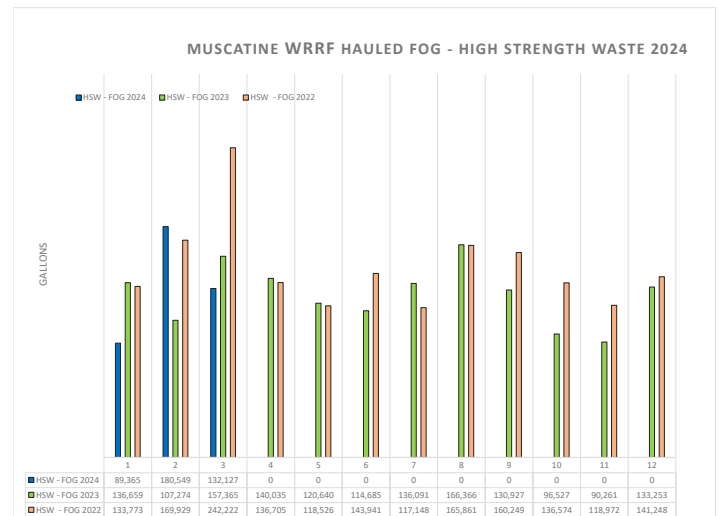
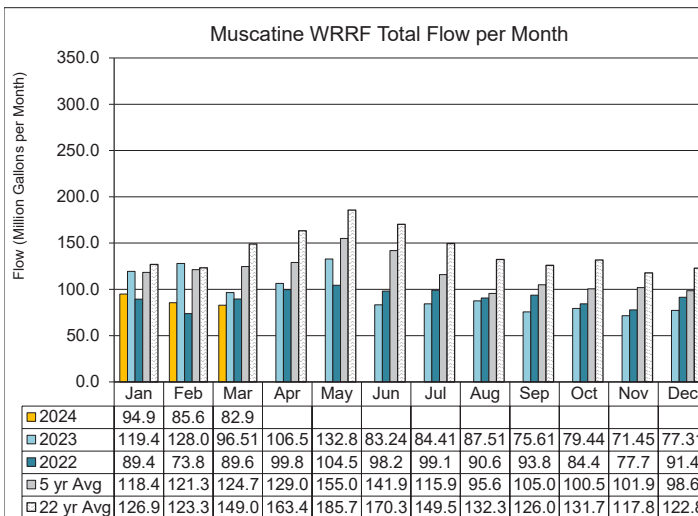
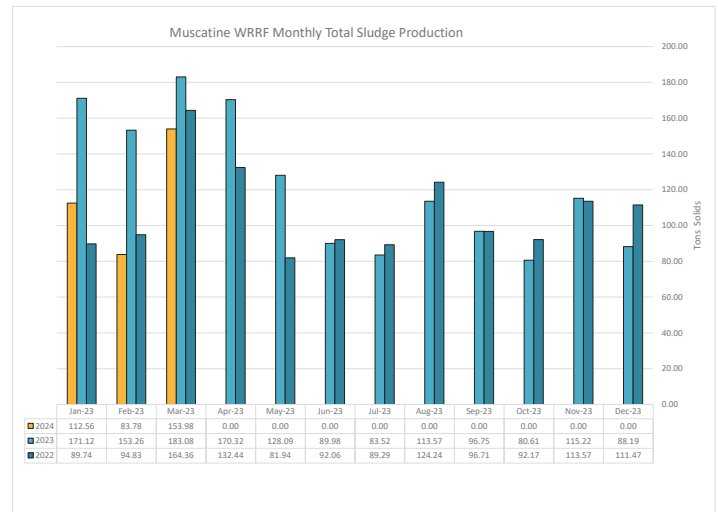
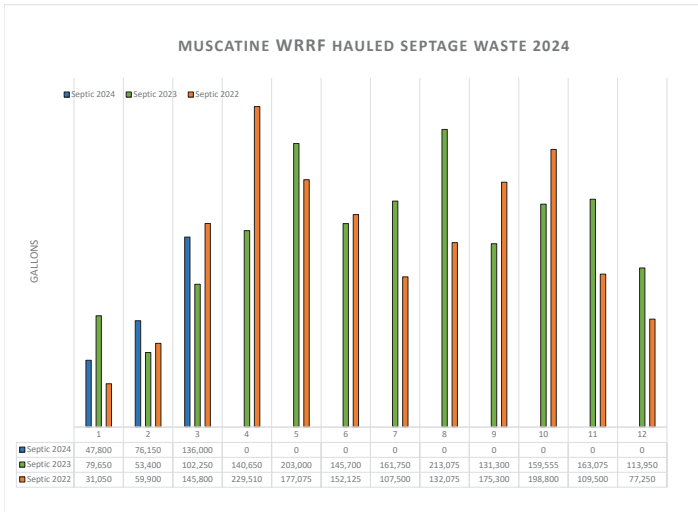
This chart shows the amount of solid waste collected curbside (in tons) as well as the amount of material dropped off at the Transfer Station (per item). Dropped off items include: electronics, appliances, tires, household hazardous waste and recyclables. Also included is the average number of customers per day at the Transfer Station.

Collection & Drainage Division March 2024:

The Collection & Drainage Division is responsible for inspecting and maintaining the city's sanitary, storm, and combined sewer systems. This includes 993 storm water manholes, 2,407 sanitary sewer manholes, 151 combined sewer manholes, 2,840 stormwater catch basins, 112 miles of sanitary sewer and 68 miles of storm sewer pipe.



Water Pollution Control Plant



Public Safety / Muscatine Fire Department

March 2024

Highlights



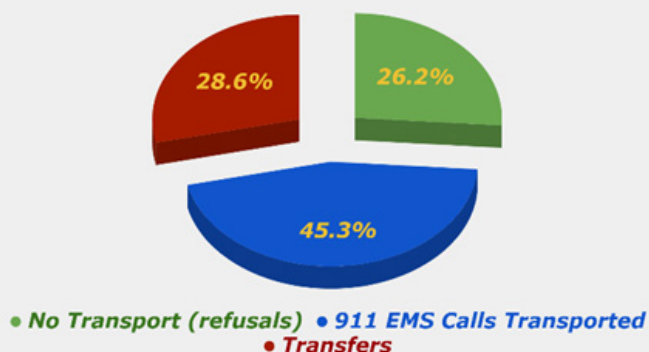
- MFD Staff planned and have been executing another great new hire academy
- Academy participants will complete their training on April 5th and report to their assigned shift immediately after
- FF Martin, FF Wilder, and FF Bartels all completed their one-year probation and were sworn into service by Mayor Bark on March 21st

Staff Updates & Kudos

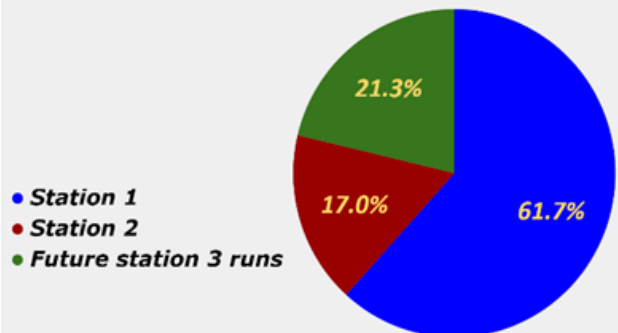
- Lieutenants Jason Verschoore, Spencer Ripperger, and Joe Rymars did an amazing job of setting up and coordinating our new hire academy
- A total of 25 different MFD staff instructed at the academy
- Stephanie Oien continues to upgrade our computer software relating to daily checks, inventory, and scheduling



EMS Call Types - March 2024



Calls per Coverage Area - March 2024



Public Safety / Muscatine Fire Department

Demand for Services / Response Activity

	March 2024	Avg. Per Day	Year To Date
Fire Responses	69	2.26	182
911 EMS Responses	288	9.29	880
Out of Town Transfers	101	3.26	292
Local Transfers	17	0.55	46
Total Responses	475	15.32	1,400
	March 2024		Year To Date
Urban Response Time - Goal - 90% within 9 min or less	92.2%		91.0%
Rural Response Time - Goal - 90% within 15 min or less	95.6%		97.5%

Staff Training

Type	March 2024	Year To Date
Recruit /Probationary	15	83
Fire Suppression	219	748
EMS / Medical Related	157	589
Technical/Rescue	132	167
Driver/Operator	8	49
Professional Development/Leadership	107	296
Paramedic Program	256	718
Totals	894	2,650

Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance

	March 2024	Year To Date
Fire Vehicle Miles Driven	3,505	8,865
Ambulance Miles Driven	10,418	30,363
Total Miles Driven	13,923	39,228
Gallons of Diesel Fuel Dispensed	584	1,402
Gallons of Gasoline Dispensed	1,510	4,356
Total Gallons of Fuel Dispensed	2,093	5,758
Work Orders Completed (PPE, Vehicles, Equip.)	45	127

Prevention, Education and Outreach

	MAR 2024	YTD		Mar 2024	YTD
Fire Inspections	21	45	Plan Reviews/Site Visits	21	63
Fire Reinspections	4	38	Fire Investigations	6	14
Educational Events	3	7	Permits Issued	126	384

Public Safety / Muscatine Police Department

March 2024 Updates

- The Iowa Association of Women Police annual Spring conference was hosted by the Women of MPD. This was the first time the conference was held in Muscatine. The conference was attended by over 100 women in policing and was open with Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds speaking. This was a huge success and really great showing for our community!



- Congratulations to Greg Hazelett who was promoted to Lieutenant.
- Thanks goes out to the Investigations Unit for their hard work on the locker room tear out. This helped a great deal with the renovation project and saved money in the process.
- All members of the Muscatine Police Department received their first department coordinated individual mental wellness check-ups. These annual checkups are made possible through Federal Mental Health grant funding.
- Thanks to Lt. Hazelett & Sgt. Patel for their work on remodeling the storage room and weapons vault.



- Officer Kassy Middagh received the 2024 Iowa Association of Women Police "Officer of the Year" award. Great job!!

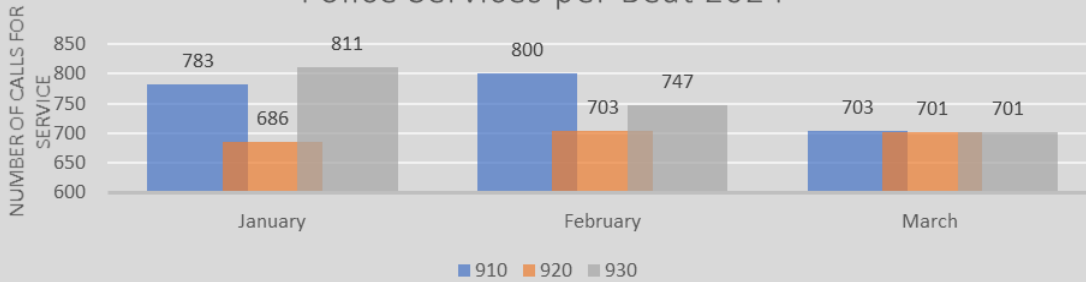


- Officers Middagh, Wilkinson and Griffin received Life Saving Awards for efforts made on a call in December.
- Department members completed ABLE refresher training.
- Officer Whitney Pena was proclaimed "Volunteer of the Year" by Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Very much deserved!

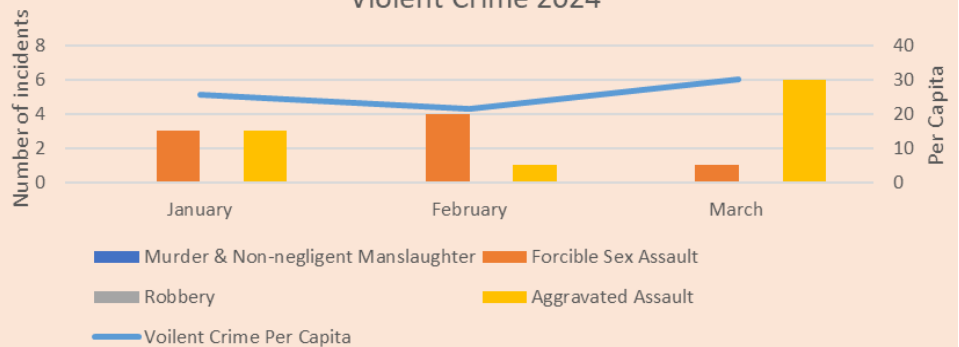


Public Safety / Muscatine Police Department

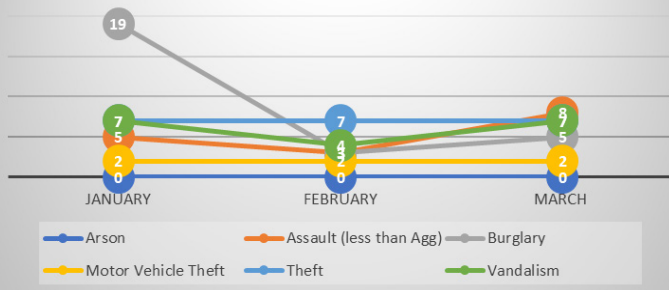
Police Services per Beat 2024



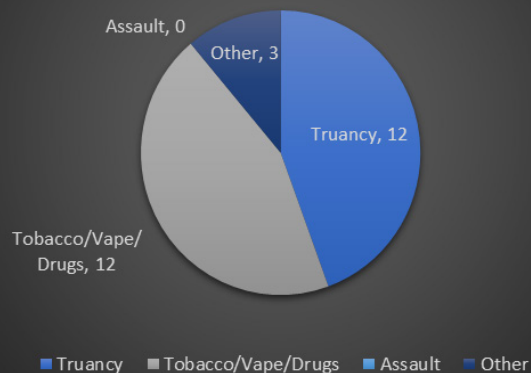
Violent Crime 2024



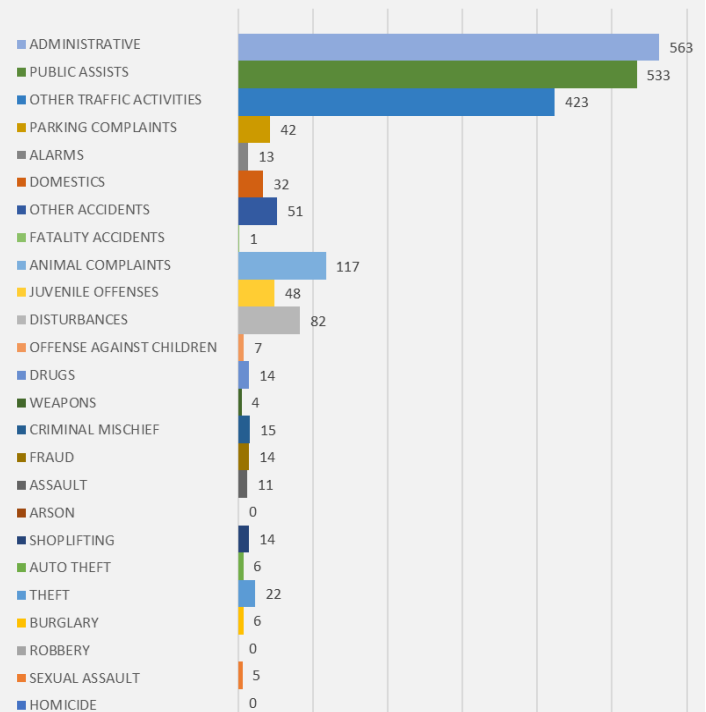
Street Crimes 2024



School Resource Officers
March Offences



Muscatine PD Calls for Service-March 2024





Musser Public Library

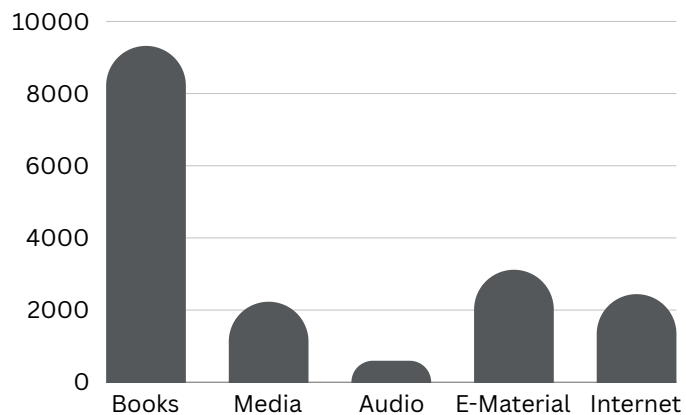
THE STORY OF MARCH 2024

PEOPLE LOVE WHAT WE DO AND WE LOVE SHARING THAT WITH YOU!

I was helping a patron locate an obituary. We were able to find it in our Muscatine Journal database. They told me it was for their child, who was still born. They never got to see the child or hold them. Due to complications, they didn't even get to go to the burial. They had never had the obituary, so getting that obituary gave them some closure. It feels great knowing that we can provide these services that are truly helping people.

Reference Staff Member

This month, people checked out almost 17,000 items in the library and online.



PEOPLE ASKED US A LOT OF QUESTIONS.



WE ANSWERED 404 QUESTIONS THIS MONTH.

WE SENT AND RECEIVED 3,121 MATERIALS FROM OTHER LIBRARIES TO HELP OUR PATRONS.

WE GREETED 10,009 PEOPLE THIS MONTH.

570 OF THEM USED OUR MEETING ROOMS AS GATHERING SPACES.



x 842

PEOPLE CAME TO OUR PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES. WE HAD 46 PROGRAMS THIS MONTH!

AND WATCHED US ON TV.

19 new shows debuted
326 different shows aired
718 total programs
515 hours of programming
average program length:
43 minutes



PEOPLE VISITED US ONLINE, TOO.

OUR DATABASES WERE USED 7,566 TIMES.

WE HAD 9,569 VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE.

We are gearing up for summer, but there are still amazing programs before it gets here.

Check out our newsletter for all of the latest on the library, including programming information and exclusive content!

PHONE: (563) 263-3065
WWW.MUSSERPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

For a complete list of exhibitions, classes, programs, and projects at the Muscatine Art Center, request a copy of the quarterly newsletter or subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter by contacting art@muscatineiowa.gov.

EXHIBITIONS



February 24 - June 16, 2024

**ANIMALS
IN ART**



Fine Art from the Permanent Collection of the
Muscatine Art Center



American Art Pottery
from the Collection of
Mark & Marie Latta



Art Array 2024

on view at the Muscatine Art Center

March 21 - June 2

Artists



Carol J. Anthony
Yvonne Breiner
Kent Broadbent
Cory Christiansen
Jim Elias
Kay Flanders
Zarina Guner
Jame Hayes
Chris Hoffman
Jim Houseman
Philip Laber

Donna Lapsey
Rick Lodmell
Annette Matjucha Hovland
Janet McElroy
Melissa Morse
Denise Murphy
Rip Russell
Connie Sherman
Rick Steffens
Brenda Taylor

Reception: April 4, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

See this year's entries, meet the artists and judges, and find out who will win 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards. Free Admission!

Judges

Peter Xiao

Kristin Quinn

Organized and sponsored by:



Free For Kids

mini masters

Introduce your children (ages 2 to 7) to the world of art with free art classes. Each class consists of a story and two art projects! Classes meet most

Wednesdays from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. and Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. Classes are FREE! Call 563-263-8282 to register. The theme for April is "Yummy Food", and the theme for May is "Lovable Pets".

Free Clay Slab Mug Workshop with Miss Heather

Thursday, April 11 & 25, 5:15 – 6:45 p.m. (AGES 7+)

Our clay mug class this January was so popular, we decided to do it again! Learn how to use slabs to create a clay mug. Experiment with texture through carving and adding clay details, creating a truly unique and functional mug. No prior clay experience necessary. **This is a two-session class - create your mug April 11 and glaze it April 25. Register by April 10.**

Free Family Workshop – Raptors with Muscatine County Conservation

See LIVE owls – Saturday, April 20, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (All ages)

In partnership with Muscatine County Conservation, join us in the Muscatine Art Center studio to learn about raptors with naturalist Michelle Berns from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Kids will get to see live owls and hear about raptor habitats and habits. Then, from 11:30 a.m. to noon, make an owl-inspired craft to take home! There is no registration for this free event.

Free Artist Workshops for Kids with Miss Julie

Cherry Blossoms & Paper Vases – Saturday, April 20, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (AGES 7-14)

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is a yearly spring festival that commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Tokyo to Washington, D.C. Today's festival spans for weeks and welcomes millions of visitors to see the beautiful cherry trees in bloom. Celebrate these beautiful trees by creating your own cherry blossom in a paper vase. **Register by April 19.**

Free "Take & Makes" – Projects to Go

"NATURE BAGS" – Available May 7 - 14 (AGES 4+)

Visit the Muscatine Art Center during open hours to get a Take & Make bag. These projects will require you to get outside and enjoy time in nature! Bags are free to pick up while supplies last.

For Adults

Clay Slab Mug Workshop with Heather Seibel

Thursday, April 18 & May 9, 5:15 – 6:45 p.m. – Fee: \$15/\$13.50 Friends members

Learn how to use clay slabs to create a mug. Experiment with texture through carving and adding clay details, creating a truly unique and functional mug. No prior clay experience necessary. **This is a two-session class - create your mug April 18 and glaze it May 9. Register by April 17.**

Beginning Crochet with Bonnie Buelt

Sunday, April 21, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Fee: \$5

Spend Sunday afternoons learning crochet basics with Bonnie Buelt, crochet artist and owner of Island Floral. Learn about hook sizes and types of yarn and how to read patterns. Or, join us to refresh your skills. Come

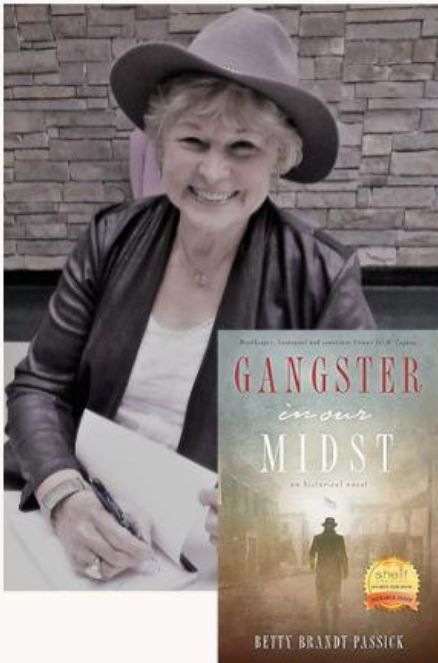
ready to learn something new or bring your projects. Various sizes of hooks will be provided to use during the workshop. Bring your own yarn. **Register by April 19.**

Red Barn Studio with Vada Baker – Cardinal on a Branch

Sunday, May 5, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. – Fee: \$15/\$13.50 Friends members

Artist Vada Baker is back with fresh new projects to get you excited for spring. In this class we will use watercolors to paint a bright red cardinal on a branch. All supplies included. No experience necessary. **Register by May 3.**

AUTHOR TALK: Betty Brandt Passick



Thursday, April 18
5:30 p.m.

Iowa native Betty Brandt Passick has authored four books including two award-winning historical crime novels about northeast Iowa. Her first novel, *Gangster in Our Midst*, tells the factually-inspired story of Chicago mobster Louie La Cava's arrival in the author's hometown of Fairbank (called "Oxbow" in the book) in the early 1920s. During the sixty-minute talk, Passick takes attendees on a deep dive into the story of La Cava and his mafia family, along with other notorious gangsters operating in the Midwest during the 1920s-30s. Attendees are also invited to share their gangster stories.

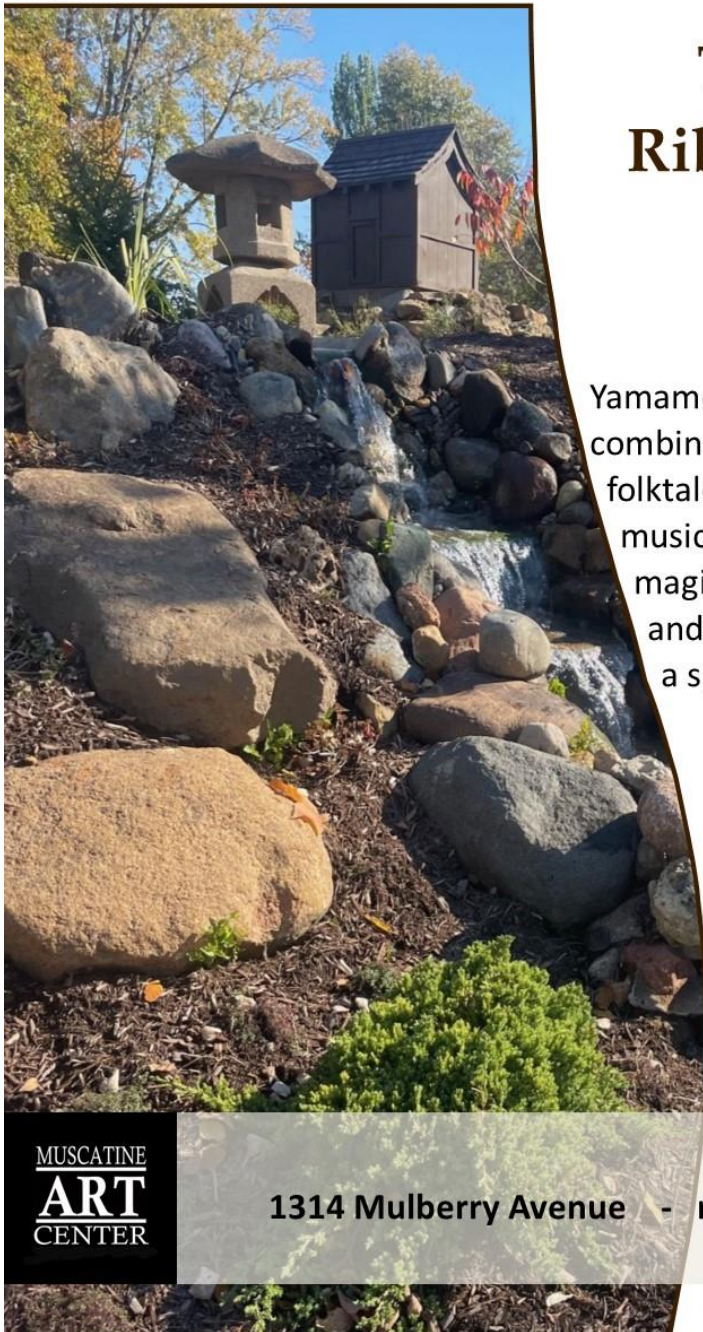
Read more at
www.BettyBrandtPassick.com.
Books available to purchase the
night of the program for \$20.

Free Admission

Muscatine Art Center
1314 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, IA 52761

MUSCATINE
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Join us as we celebrate the rehabilitation of the historic Japanese Garden



Thursday, May 2, 2024 Ribbon Cutting at 5:00 p.m.

followed by a performance by
Storyteller Kuniko Yamamoto

Yamamoto's performance combines Japanese folktales with traditional musical instruments, magical masks, origami, and mime to create a spellbinding story.



Performance is part of the
Quad City Arts
Visiting Artist Series



Admission is free of charge.

Reservations are not required.

Light refreshments.

MUSCATINE
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1314 Mulberry Avenue - muscatineartcenter.org - 563-263-8282



A tea party celebrating women

Saturday, May 11

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Music Room - Muscatine Art Center

Reservations Required
\$25/\$20 Members

This fundraiser for
Friends of the Muscatine Art Center
includes musical entertainment,
a silent auction, tea/coffee, and
savory and sweet treats,
Reserve your table by calling the
Muscatine Art Center at 563-263-8282.

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fr|ends
of the muscatine art center