



MAYOR'S MEMO

Community Updates, Directly From Your Mayor

Welcome To The Sixth Edition!

TOPICS: Welcome Indianola Visitors, Facilities & Public Safety Planning & By The Numbers For Parks & Recreation



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My wife and I recently returned from a weeklong trip to Yellowstone National Park with our two teenage granddaughters. Those two are absolutely hilarious, and we always have a great time traveling with them. As a result, I've been a bit delayed in getting this memo put together.

WELCOME TO INDIANOLA

We're excited to welcome all guests visiting Indianola for the Des Moines Metro Opera (DMMO) and the 2025 Discmania Challenge, presented by TruBank. Opera performers, stage crew, disc golf players and fans are already arriving in town.

Over the next two weeks, Indianola will host hundreds of visitors, volunteers and staff. Our Parks and Recreation Department, along with many community volunteers, have worked tirelessly to prepare our world-class disc golf course at Pickard Park. Similarly, DMMO staff and supporters are gearing up for another outstanding season.

We encourage guests to explore our local businesses, restaurants, shops, motels, our Indianola Wellness Campus and more. Your support helps make Indianola a great place to live, work and visit.

FACILITIES & PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING

At our most recent Indianola City Council meeting,

we continued discussions around City facilities and the planning for a future public safety facility. Nearly two years ago, the City of Indianola acquired the former Regions Bank building to serve as temporary office space for City staff during this process.

Initial cost estimates from over a year ago exceeded our bonding capacity - even after the project was scaled down. Since then, the Council has been evaluating what steps to take first.

Ultimately, the Council agreed to explore moving City administration and the Community Development Department to the Regions Bank building. This would allow Police and Fire to temporarily occupy most of the current City Hall. It's still to be determined whether the Council Chambers would remain at its current location or also move. Cost will play a major role in that decision.

NEXT STEPS & COST ESTIMATES

Council Members Christina Beach and Josh Rabe will work with our original construction manager at risk (CMAR), Ryan Companies, to assess options. This approach allows the City to lock in a guaranteed maximum price for construction. The immediate plan includes:

1. Confirming we can continue using Ryan Companies under the CMAR model.
2. Requesting a guaranteed maximum price for renovating the Regions building.

If the Council approves, Ryan Companies will seek competitive bids for the work and present a final plan for consideration. We're taking small, intentional steps to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while ensuring our public safety departments have the space and resources they need.

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WHY WE NEED MORE SPACE

With every 1,000-person increase in population, a city typically needs at least one additional firefighter and one additional police officer. Indianola has grown by nearly 5,000 people since 1990, including nearly 2,000 since 2010.

The current City Hall was built in the 1960s, with an addition in 1990. At the time, Indianola's population was 7,062. Back then, we had eight police officers and a mostly volunteer fire department. Today, the Indianola Police Department includes 11 officers, three detectives, three sergeants, two school resource officers, one lieutenant, one captain and one chief, along with six support staff and one community service officer. The Indianola Fire Department, on the other hand, currently has 22 part-time EMT/paramedics, 10 full-time firefighters/paramedics, six full-time captains, two full-time firefighters/EMTs and one full-time chief.

It's clear that our public safety teams have outgrown the current facility. A long-term solution will eventually require constructing a new building to serve both departments adequately.



BY THE NUMBERS: INDIANOLA PARKS & REC

The Indianola Parks & Recreation Department plays a vital role in enhancing our quality of life, and the numbers reflect the impact of their work:

- The department manages over 260 acres of parkland across the city. Of that, 155 acres are regularly mowed and maintained to keep our parks looking their best.
- It takes approximately 325,000 gallons of water to fill the Indianola Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center each season.
- Concession stands at the aquatic center and Pickard Park Sports Complex serve around 7,700 frozen treats between April and October.
- The team coordinates dozens of youth sports leagues, special events and programs that reach thousands of participants.

Indianola Parks & Rec helps shape lasting memories and elevates the quality of life for residents of all ages. These efforts not only promote health and wellness, but also contribute to Indianola's vibrant community life and economy. Their work is a key reason why Indianola continues to be a welcoming place to live, work and play.

