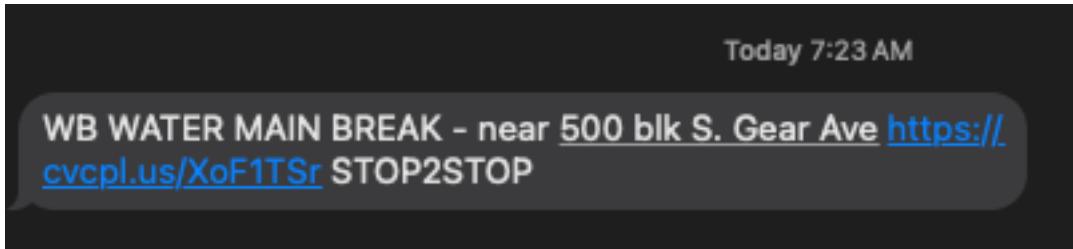




City Administrator & Staff Update

2025.02.21

- **Notify Me:** Please sign up and encourage our residents to sign up for text messaging and/or email notices on our website under "Notify Me". Thank you! Here is a sample from Monday's Watermain Break:



- **IISC Arts and Culture Article:** IISC team creates arts and culture plan for Burlington and West Burlington: Here is the link. Article attached.
<https://iisc.uiowa.edu/news/2025/02/planning-creative-future>
- **IISC GIS:** Per the Iowa GIS Professor - We're (Iowa Professor and Students) working on a couple of projects for you at the moment. The first is a deeper dive into city owned properties. Trying to give you guidance on which ones may be useful or as we discussed, which ones you may want to offload (and who might those go to). The second is essentially a data dive. We're trying to identify what data on your wish list is available and then package that up in a nice Geodatabase package for you, along with some metadata to trace it back to its origins. Depending on how this goes we have discussed doing some sidewalk digitizing/audits as well.
- **IDOT Work and Street Closure:** WB Avenue will be closed for approximately a month for bridge work. Per IDOT - Thanks for taking my call this afternoon. We look forward to coordinating and working with the City of West Burlington on the U.S. 34 WB and EB bridge work over West Burlington Avenue. I have attached the contractor's progress schedule, preconstruction meeting minutes, and plans for the U.S. 34 improvements. Brandt intends to mobilize on March 15 (weather permitting) for both bridges and do the work concurrently. The Traffic Control Plan note (Sheet J.1) in the (238) plan set state: *"During curb and deck repairs and slope protection construction, W. Burlington Avenue underneath U.S. 34 shall be closed, and a detour route will be established. The City of West Burlington will be responsible establishing, installing and maintaining the detour route. Contractor shall coordinate with District 5 Office and the City of West Burlington."* I understand we may have to coordinate our work with fiber improvements in the area.

- **Beaverdale:** I have heard that Beaverdale area residents are being charged the franchise fee/. I am following up with Alliant.
- **Alley Art Grant:** I have the art grant ready to be submitted. We just need to finalize the location. I love the pocket park concept, a few other potential sites just walking along Broadway and Wheeler – bank, old ReMax building, above the new ReMax building (office side, area in red) or the wall to the south. City Hall along Wheeler or even the alley way. In this case, I would recommend using the metal sheets attached to the mortar. Easily repaired in the future. I like the idea of using both ends on the south side and perhaps some lighting tucked up under the roofing/windows. Hoping to meet with Elizabeth soon to develop some ideas. Appreciate hearing any ideas you may have as well!
- **REC:** Complete and 39 accounts (few have multiple accounts).
- **Bolton & Menk:** Working with Bolton & Menk on the TAP grant due soon. SEIRPC can't assist as this funding goes through their board. I have asked for design services factoring in student work, and they are updating the cost estimates for the grant.
- **Opinion Piece by the Mayor of Waukee:** Please see the attached article.

IT (Newberry)

- **Storage Array Installation:** Scheduled for next Wednesday. This week, I assigned the necessary IP addresses and other configuration details and sent them to the installer.
- **Door System Setup:** Spent Tuesday crimping cable ends for the new door system.
- **iPad Configuration:** Reset iPads for the Street Shop to resolve GIS-related issues. Also set up the Public Works Director his iPad for communication and GIS work.
- **Lexipol Data Breach Investigation:** Analyzed the breach (breach related to Lexipol service) to identify affected users. Almost all police officers' information, including password hashes and all Police Department policy manuals, were exposed in the database leak. Recommendations were sent to affected users.

Police/Fire (Logan)

- Working on giving the written test this weekend for the PD.
- Been working on some big cases with the PD this past week. Officer Covert had to call Burlington Police Department and Sheriff's Department for assistance on Sunday when he was out by himself. He pulled over someone that he knew that was barred from driving on Broadway St. The guy then started fighting with Officer Covert and a bystander driving by at the time assisted Officer Covert until the other officers arrived to assist.
- Had another accident on Agency with a car pulling out of Walmart heading across the road. They ran into the side of the semi which ruptured the fuel tank of the semi. There was approximately 75 gallons of diesel fuel that leaked onto the roadway. With the assistance of the streets department, we were able to get it cleaned up. The fuel never made it to either storm intake. I did contact Iowa DNR to report the incident. (Like to put this on the agenda for discussion – closing or right turn only – Gregg)



Building (Crooks)

Building

1. No new permit applications received this week
2. I continue to work with projects on hold waiting additional information
3. A plumbing inspection was completed on the first floor of Alice Place.

Code Enforcement

1. One new notice was mailed out
2. Follow up was completed on outstanding nuisance complaints with some being closed

License

1. Three new permanent business licenses were issued

Miscellaneous

1. I attended a zoom meeting with Bolten & Menk regarding zoning code updates
2. I attended a meeting at city hall regarding fiber project
3. Completed a review on septic question for resident
4. Started a rental complaint from a tenant.

Finance (Moore)

This week, I have been focused on finalizing the budget, ensuring that all necessary adjustments and reviews are completed. As part of this process, I have re-evaluated potential water rate increases to account for the 9% increase from Burlington Waterworks. Additionally, I continued working on Police Department wages, analyzing adjustments and provided additional information as requested.

Public Works (Williams)

Streets

- Water and sewer labs

Utilities

- Lift station rounds
- Clean lift stations
- Locates (05)

Other Activities

- Parks and Broadway Street trash and recycling
- Service trucks and squad cars
- Sign maintenance
- Building maintenance and clean up
- Snow removal
- Watermain break (Gear/Hutson)

Projects

- Local Boring will be back down to work when the weather is better.
- We had a meeting with IM Onn to discuss their plans for putting in their fiber through town.

Additional Items/Upcoming Items of Interest

- Cole signed up to take his grade 2 in water distribution
- Jacob has signed up for his grade 2 in wastewater treatment

Summary

- The new VFD is in the south lift station and running. Working with alliant and Dave Bessine to come up with a solution for a fix to this ongoing problem.

Planning for a Creative Future

IISC team creates arts and culture plan for Burlington and West Burlington

Friday, February 7, 2025

"The truth is that politics, whose currency is power, and economics, whose currency is money, only get us so far. We also need culture, whose currency is trust." - Yo-Yo Ma

Along with land use, housing, and transportation planning, many cities are adopting arts and culture plans. Echoing this sentiment from the great violinist Yo-Yo Ma, they recognize the power of arts and culture to bring people together and provide a sense of shared belonging. Evidence shows that communities with vibrant opportunities to experience the arts and co-create culture often attract new residents and retain existing ones, see decrease in crimes and increase in health and well-being.



entertainment, creative expression, and opportunities for social connection."

This year, a group of University of Iowa students in the School of Planning and Public Affairs is undertaking is creating the first ever arts and culture master plan for the cities of West Burlington and Burlington. Through these communities' yearlong partnership with the UI's Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC), the group is assessing existing strengths, talking with residents about their visions, and researching planning models and best practices.

Prioritizing arts and culture

Elizabeth Pappas, one of the IISC team's primary partners, says she has seen a "surge in arts and culture activity" in the area since becoming executive director of Art Center of Burlington in 2022. Believing that growing a good thing is crucial, Pappas appreciates the process the students are undertaking.

"A structured approach ensures that arts and culture remain a priority in city planning, securing funding and partnerships for continued growth," she says. "We know that a vibrant arts scene contributes to community well-being by offering

Two Cities, One Community

Seven graduate students are working on the project, five from the Urban Planning—Benjamin DeTaeye, Alexi Edmonds, Joe Grabowski, Ryan Harrington, Emma Knobloch, and—and two from Sustainable Development—Veyda Matos and Gabe Sturdevant. The guiding mantra they've adopted is *Two Cities, One Community*, which highlights the unique opportunities of bringing together two municipalities that have not always collaborated.

"We want to leverage the strengths of both cities," says team member Ryan Harrington, "to create a cohesive, dynamic community that values and seeks to elevate its cultural identity."

Since the inception of the project last fall, the team has engaged with community members to learn what arts and culture features they already enjoy and what additions or changes they suggest. They've conducted stakeholder interviews with leaders such as Pappas. Currently, they are completing case study research and a cultural asset map.

Emma Knobloch, another team member, hopes the completed plan and the evidence they've compiled will assist city leaders and local arts administrators make a strong case for arts and cultural funding. "West Burlington and Burlington are trying to figure out how to retain their younger residents. There's strong evidence that arts and culture are drivers in helping people want to stay in a place."

The plan's driving principles

Land use is another aspect of the plan. As needs are identified for programming, services, and new facilities, the planning team is identifying appropriate spaces. Harrington says they are currently mapping vacant lots and reviewing zoning for these parcels. As one of the driving principles of the plan is to ensure all members of the community can interact with the arts, they're also figuring out which areas currently have less access to creative outlets.

Other principles include integrating the area's history, committing to economic and environmental sustainability, and encouraging collaboration. The latter is where the "two cities, one community" philosophy comes in. The team see ample opportunities for cross-community arts and culture events, initiatives, and artist-led groups. They cite local public schools, Southeastern Community College, Art Center of Burlington, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, and the Snake Alley Art Fair as potential collaborators.

As a group of seven, collaboration has been central to the team's process. Harrington, who is interested in applying his planning degree to community development, says that at the onset of the project, each member shared why they were attracted to the project.

"We all had something that brought us to it," he recalls, many of which they didn't know about each other. For example, one member has a sister who is a musician living outside of Iowa partly because there isn't sufficient work for her here, while others brought backgrounds in cultural studies.

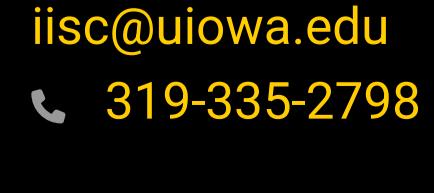
Knobloch, who hopes to pursue a PhD in public health, is excited by the connection between health and the arts. She is also motivated by the way the arts can transcend differences. "At this divisive time, arts and culture help bring people together."

Plan unveiled on May 8

Pappas is excited to share their final plan with her community. "I have been so impressed with all of them and their thoughtful, thorough approach," she says. "They have been very hands-on and have truly done their research on our community and its rich history—so much so that I think I learned a thing or two I didn't know through their findings and insights."

The team will present their findings and recommendations during IISC's end-of-year showcase event on May 8 in Burlington. Related projects from the partnership are an alleyway activation project led by UI art faculty member Ali Hval and a creative expression workshop taught by MFA student Mariana Tejeda.

Related



Iowa Initiative For Sustainable Communities

School of Planning and Public Affairs

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

iisc@uiowa.edu

319-335-2798

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