# **Opportunities are Soaring in Sac City**

[Sac City, IA, March 25, 2024] Highlighted by new businesses, housing growth and city improvements for residents and visitors, the past 12 months have been a period of growth for Sac City.

## **Business and Economic Neighborhood Development**

Cognizant Counseling, a Des Moines based area therapy service, started accepting new patients at their new Sac City location on October 27, 2023. Sac City's new area therapy service will be offering appointments online and in-person.

Goodness from the Goats opened in downtown Sac City. This boutique features handcrafted cold and hot process raw goat's milk soaps and lotions (made near Lytton, lowa), more body care products, home goods, and accessories. Goodness from the Goats, hosted their grand opening at Giftique on September 21, 2023.

Hog Slat, the largest construction contractor and manufacturer of hog production equipment in the United States, opened a new retail store location in Sac City. The store will support the needs of local swine, poultry, and cattle producers for both remodeling and new construction.

This & That is a pallet store located in downtown Sac City that officially opened their doors on July 14, 2023. The new store's inventory is sourced from brokers who handle returned merchandise, seasonal items, online purchases, display models, and other products with damaged or missing packaging.

For approximately three years, Loring Hospital has been preparing for renovations to optimize the space and overall flow of the hospital to ensure the best patient experience for years to come. The 42,000 square foot expansion includes enhanced outpatient service areas such as rehabilitation therapy, pulmonary and cardiac rehab, diabetes and nutrition services, specialty outpatient clinics, and a new primary provider clinic. The project – which was officially approved by the Loring Hospital Board of Directors in June 2023 – is being funded through a USDA low-interest loan, a local loan, hospital funds, and a community-wide capital campaign that is set to kick off in the spring, along with a groundbreaking ceremony.

Raccoon Valley Electric finished an addition to their building in 2023.













#### Sac Economic & Tourism Development

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## **Housing Developments**

Housing in Sac City is booming as multiple building permits have been acquired in the past year for projects like new housing, additions, fencing, garages, and more. In the spring and summer of 2023, two new homes were constructed on Ahrens street and were quickly purchased off the market. A third lot has been purchased from the city with construction scheduled to start in summer 2024.

The Deer Run housing development, located in the southwest section of the city, heralds an exciting chapter in Sac City's residential landscape. The infrastructure, including the road, is projected to be finished in summer 2024. Twelve lots will be available for purchase at that time.

## **City Projects**

The new owner of the middle school building is interested in refurbishing the auditorium for plays, theatre, concerts, recitals, and more. From this, the Sac City Arts Council has been reinvigorated with new council members.

Criss Trust beautification projects have continued, and one of the main projects in 2023 was renovating the Chautauqua Building. The beloved landmark received a new concrete foundation, a fresh coat of paint, new screening, new furniture, new doors, fresh landscaping, and more. That work was paid for with a combination of grant funds acquired by the City and funds from Criss Trust. The Criss Trust fund was also used to add decorative panels on the Main Street bridge. Thank you to the Criss Trust for all of their hard work and dedication in making Sac City a more beautiful place to live.

New light poles, the brick inlay at the intersection of Main Street and 5th Street, new sidewalks with brick inlays, and new seasonal light pole banners are among other improvements that were completed to Sac City's Main Street thanks to the City of Sac City and Criss Trust.











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## **City Projects**

The Sac Aquatic Center had metal art palm trees installed in the past year. The roof and control panels were replaced and new security cameras we installed to enhance safety and efficiency, ensuring optimal functionality for swimmers and staff alike.

The city of Sac City has made many infrastructure improvements, the main one of which being the relocation of the sanitary sewer to continue protecting our water quality and public health. During the project, approximately three city blocks were re-paved. In the past year, multiple sections of concrete in town were re-paved, sealed, or repaired to enhance road safety and improve the overall infrastructure. Various manhole covers and storm sewer inlets throughout town were replaced. Four new concrete pads were also poured at Riverside Campground, which opens April 1.

The city also demolished two dilapidated residential houses and the Sunwise Building to make way for future developments and opportunities. In addition, a new water line was ran from Park Avenue to Loring Hospital to ensure a consistent and reliable water supply for the hospital and surrounding area. Freedom Rock was resealed with an anti-graffiti coating, courtesy of materials and labor generously donated by Eric Shull.

Just recently, Sac City is working to acquire over 100 acres of land to develop a multi-use recreation trail system in Sac City. This includes the development of an ATV trail park, mountain biking trails, river trails, and bicycle trails. The park will be located in the NE section of town within the forested areas and adjacent to the Raccoon River. Additionally, the cycling trail will start at Chautauqua Park, proceed west next to Main Street and end at the City Limits on the west side of the City. This would be known as phase 1. Phase 2 & 3 will continue the cycling trail west to Perkins Avenue, then head South all the way to Lake View, eventually tying into the Sauk Rail Trail. The City is cooperating with a trails committee headed by Lance Wilhelm to implement the various parts of this project. Currently, the project is being planned and designed with the assistance of JEO Consulting, Inc. with the hope of applying for grant funding this Fall.













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## Improvements, Enhancements, & Remodels

Dollar General revamped their interior in 2023. With its updated aesthetics and functionality, Dollar General continues to serve as a vital hub for the community.

The middle school building in Sac City has been sold to a developer from Colorado with exciting plans to convert the building into apartments and construct four or five plex units on the south side of the lot. Once a center of education, the historic building will be reimagined to meet the changing needs of the community.

The Sac Community center celebrated 100 years this past year by renovating the gym which included resurfacing the floor, new wall pads, new turf in the batting cage, and more!

### **Education**

Nathan Hemiller was named East Sac County's new superintendent in February of 2023 after the retirement of Jeff Kruse. In the same month, ESC announced that Tony Tedesco would be the new junior high/senior high school principal. Both the elementary school and high school were remodeled to modernize their facilities and enhance the learning environment. The 2023-24 school year started off great with ESC experiencing success is multiple sports and in the classroom. We look forward to the new energy and progress for years to come.

## **Summary**

The past 18 months in Sac City, lowa, has marked a period of notable expansion and development. The influx of new businesses, coupled with growth in housing options and significant city improvements, underscores the community's commitment to progress and enhancement. As Sac City continues to evolve, residents, businesses, and visitors alike can look forward to a thriving environment that caters to their needs and aspirations.









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