CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

DECATUR TRANSFER HOUSE

2016 Accomplishments

2016 WAS A BUSY

time for the city and the Decatur community, a year where years of tough, sometimes unpopular decisions necessary to the future growth and development of our community began to yield real results. It was a year where long standing plans were implemented, shovels and heavy equipment put to ground and we began to see a physical community transformation start to take shape.

As you'll see in this document, today we are in a period of critical infrastructure improvement. It's not always exciting but without it we won't have the tools necessary to encourage the kind of growth we all deserve and have begun to see. We are in the midst of more than $200 million in infrastructure work happening or being pursued to improve local infrastructure to create the first class reliable water, sewer and transportation systems that our community deserves. Still today we are working in partnership with a team of driven and talented community and economic development entities in ways never before seen and, as a group, are bringing about incredible economic expansion in our community.

2017 Budget

This year's annual budget will provide for continued community rebuilding, significant infrastructure improvements and long-delayed equipment purchases all at a property tax rate expected to remain about the same as last year. The Decatur City Council voted unanimously in favor of a financial roadmap for the city that calls for general fund expenditures of $67.1 million and total expenditures of nearly $173 million when taking into account special revenue funds, capital and debt services. While revenues are expected to be relatively flat next fiscal year, past decisions have positioned the city to not have to request additional tax increases to fund operations.

City owned Fiber as a community redevelopment tool

A City-owned high-speed broadband fiber network will become a reality this year, making Decatur one of the few communities in the nation to have such an asset. This network is expected to provide a critical network for future law enforcement needs and to save money for community government entities, local not for profits and healthcare providers, among others that rely on broadband services to operate. The project was made possible through a generous contribution from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation which agreed to pay what could amount to upwards of 75 percent of the project's cost.

Residency Requirements implemented

Residency requirements became a top priority for the Decatur City Council this year. Members voted 6-1 in favor of a resolution expressing City Council support for residency for all new municipal employees and in Fall 2016 City Manager Tim Gleason amended city administrative policy to require all new employees to live in the Decatur community. In December 2016 IAFF Local 505, the firefighter's local bargaining unit, agreed to required residency for five years for all new firefighters.

"OF ALL OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, I THINK I'M MOST PROUD OF OUR BUDGET. WE'VE HAD TO MAKE SOME TOUGH DECISIONS BUT TODAY WE'RE SEEING THE RESULTS IN THE FORM OF REAL WORK THAT IS BENEFITTING OUR COMMUNITY" - CITY MANAGER TIM GLEASON

Economic Development

Almost $300 million in new investment made its way to Decatur in recent years. This should be seen as a sure sign of an economic resurgence in our community and comes as a result of a number of entities including city and county government, local workforce, economic development, tourism and business advocacy institutions (#TeamDecatur) working tirelessly together to bring about growth and development. Simply put - we are beginning to see results. (Projects that began/became operational in recent years included downtown Decatur's Firstech renovation ($2.3 million) , construction of Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn hotels, a new 105,000 square foot Aramark facility ($8.4 Million), Millikin University campus expansion, Ameren Gas Control Facility ($5.3 million, Sonic restaurant ($950,000), Akorn Pharmaceuticals warehouse and interior renovation ($30 million), Old Dominion Freight Expansion ($1.8 million), United Parcel Service ($1.5 million).

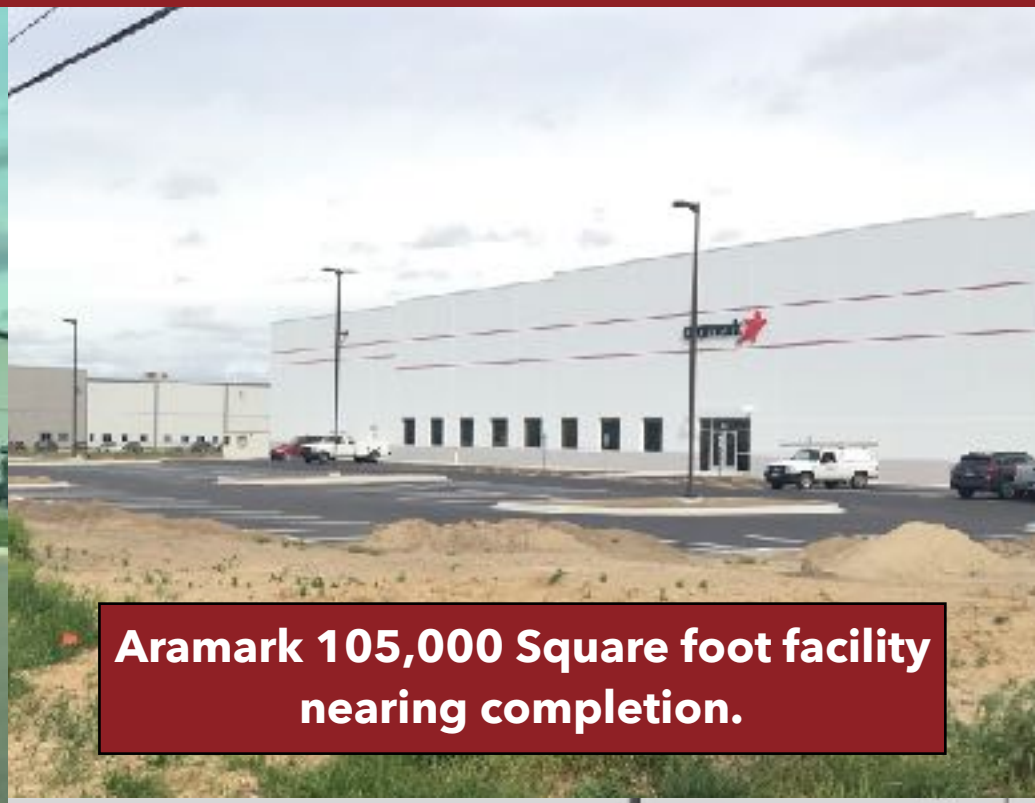
New Police Training Institute Now Under Construction

New Hampton Inn now open with new Holiday Inn and Burger Theory Restaurant expected to open soon. Progress also continues on the Firstech expansion downtown. Decatur City Council-approved redevelopment agreement helped spur all three projects.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Mound Road Corridor

The last several years have seen an explosion of activity in this area targeted by officials for continued growth as part of the Midwest Inland Port.

New Union Iron $11 million 135,000 Square Foot now operating.



Aramark 105,000 Square foot facility nearing completion.

Park Warehouses $6 million 140,000 Square Foot expansion.

Westfield Industries chose to locate its new operation along this Decatur corridor.

"IT FEELS LIKE WE AS CITY STAFF AND OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE REALLY HITTING OUR STRIDE IN TERMS OF RECRUITING AND FACILITATING DEVELOPMENT IN DECATUR. WE SAW UPWARDS OF $300 MILLION IN NEW DEVELOPMENT LAST YEAR AND THAT HAPPENED IN NO SMALL PART BECAUSE OF THE TEAM THAT WORKS DILIGENTLY EVERY DAY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. #TEAMDECATUR" - ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER BILLY TYUS

$200 Million Fuyao Glass investment

$5.6 million Akorn packaging facility expansion part of more than $30 million in company expansion now underway in Decatur.

Convey Health Solutions locates in Decatur

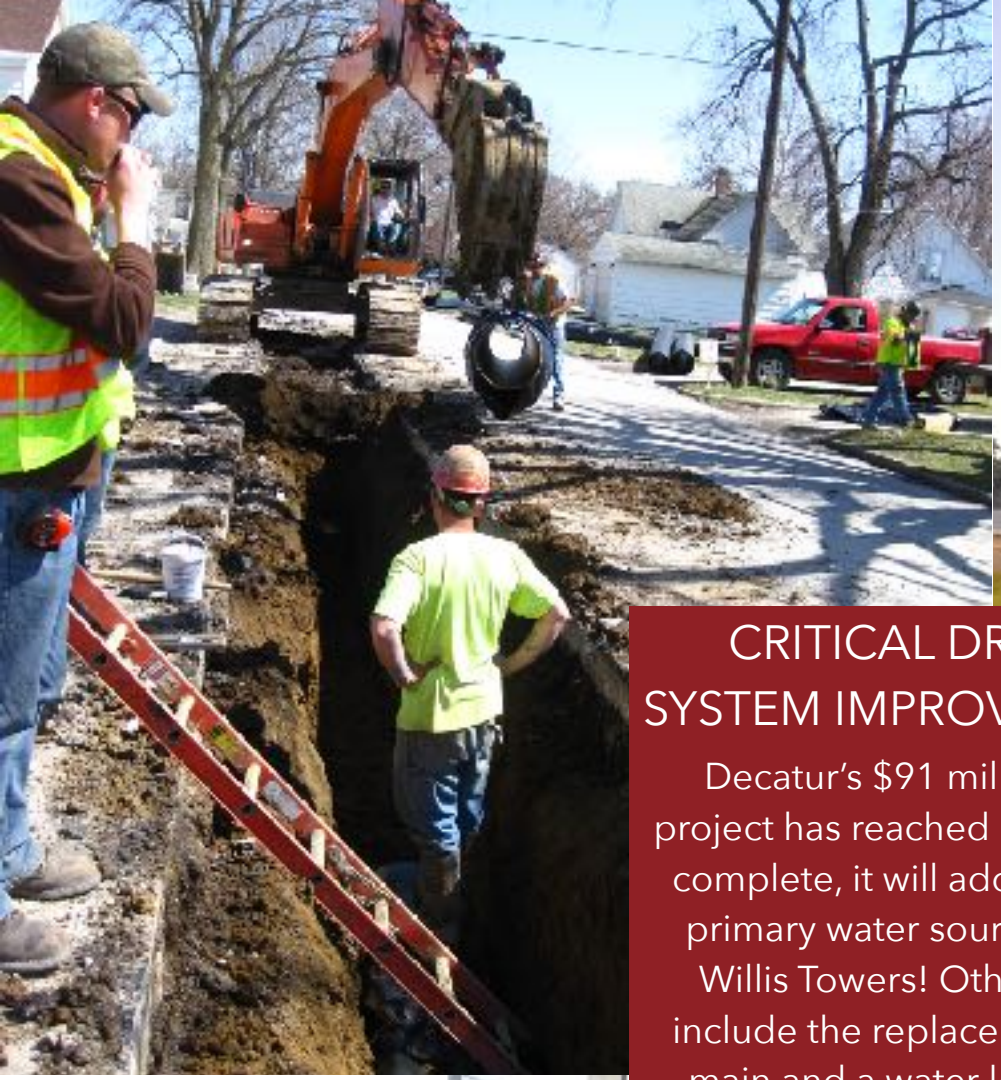
FIRE STATION UPGRADES AND A NEW 3-YEAR CONTRACT

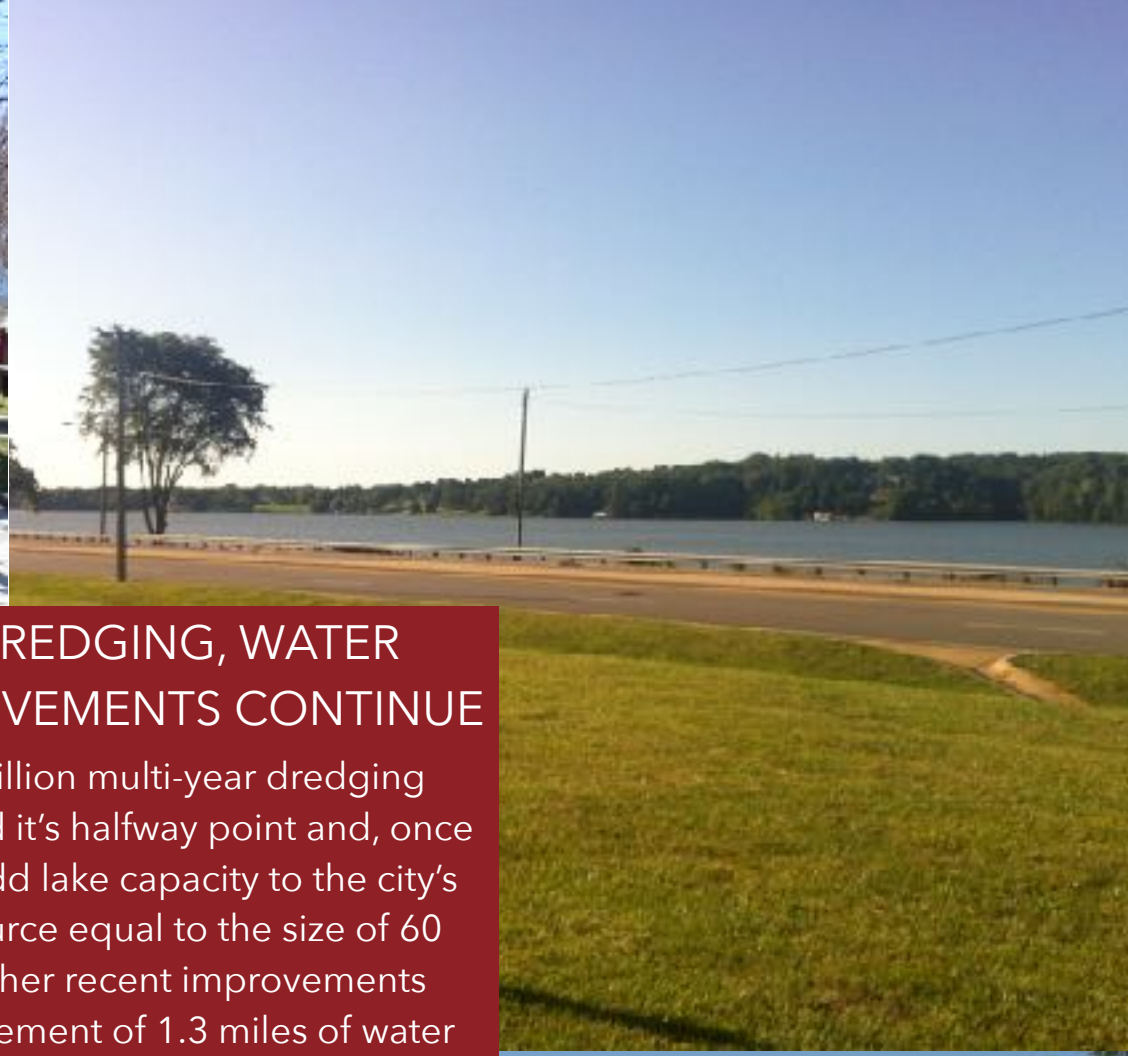
Critical improvements to the city's fire stations is now underway, public service facilities with an average age of almost 51 years and marked by significant maintenance and location constraints. Plumbing deficiencies, leaky roofs, structural issues and consistent HVAC failures are common within some stations while some of the older facilities are not able to accommodate new equipment. Still, the current locations of some stations may not be best for serving our current boundaries.

In 2016 the department also substantially completed construction of its new training tower while 2017 saw the dept. take ownership of a new state of the art fire apparatus.

Finally, in December 2016 the City and IAFF Local 505 signed a new 3-year labor agreement. Terms include a five year residency requirement for new hires, wage increases of 2.75% for the first year and 2.25% for each of the final two years and a change in the cap on increases in annual employee health insurance premium contributions.

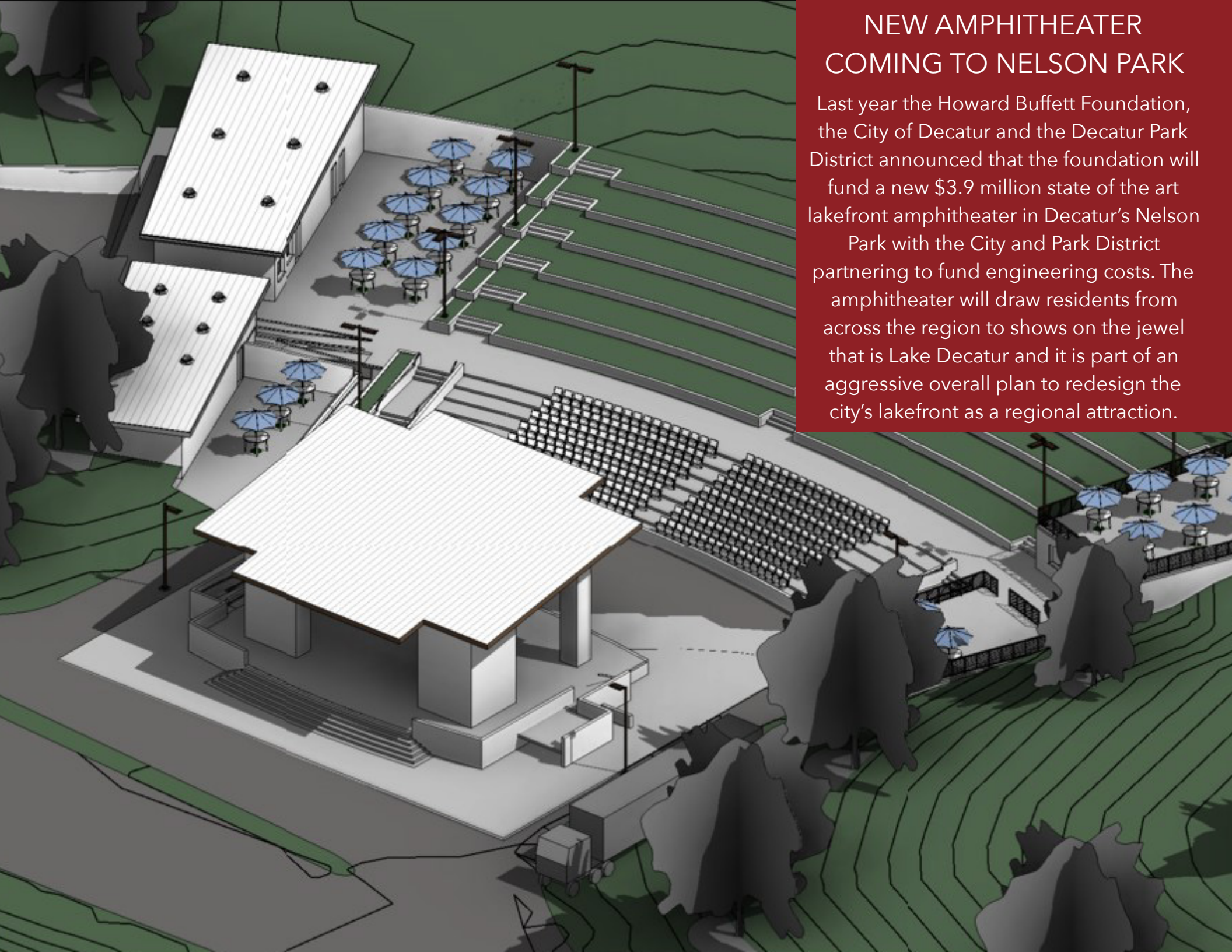
New training tower at Fire Station# 2. Expected to be painted and completed in 1st quarter 2017.





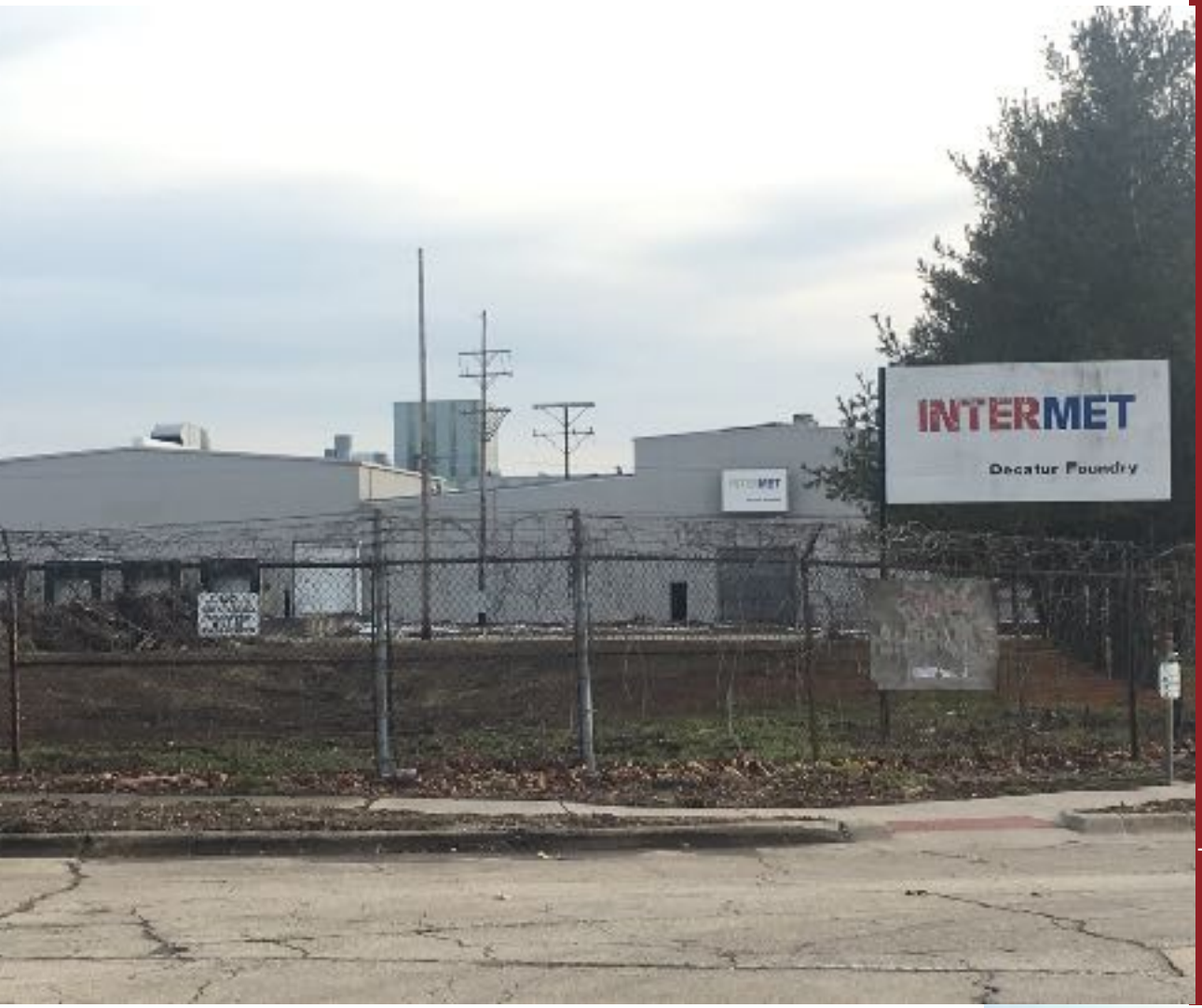
CRITICAL DREDGING, WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

Decatur's $91 million multi-year dredging project has reached it's halfway point and, once complete, it will add lake capacity to the city's primary water source equal to the size of 60 Willis Towers! Other recent improvements include the replacement of 1.3 miles of water main and a water leak detection survey that prevented 137 million gallons of water from leaking, saving taxpayers dollars. An agreement with Johnson Controls saw the City's 31,399 water meters upgraded and automatic metering installed.



NEW AMPHITHEATER COMING TO NELSON PARK

Last year the Howard Buffett Foundation, the City of Decatur and the Decatur Park District announced that the foundation will fund a new $3.9 million state of the art lakefront amphitheater in Decatur's Nelson Park with the City and Park District partnering to fund engineering costs. The amphitheater will draw residents from across the region to shows on the jewel that is Lake Decatur and it is part of an aggressive overall plan to redesign the city's lakefront as a regional attraction.



Neighborhood Regeneration

Two areas that for years have suffered from environmental issues and general vacancy began to turn around in 2016! The City reached an agreement with Vieweg Real Estate to take ownership of the former Intermet/Wagner site and return it to productive use. As part of the agreement the EPA expended more than $700,000 to remove environmental contaminants from the site.

The City also worked closely with the New Crossing Healthcare and Northeast Community Fund to bring new facilities to Wabash Crossing. The newly-expanded Healthcare Crossing is now open while a new Northeast Community Fund is expected to open soon.

LOCAL MOTOR FUEL TAX ROADWORK

The City repaired 5.15 lanes miles of roads as part of a program funded through a local motor fuel tax, neighborhood streets that were in the worst condition in our community. A 2nd round of work for more than $4.2 million was approved in April 2017 (including state MFT work) with local street repairs to continue for at least the next 8 years.

MINORITY HIRING GOALS PROGRESSING

A City commitment to diversity in hiring on public works projects began to bring about significant results as part of more than $1.3 million in local motor fuel tax-funded roadwork done in 2016. In March 2015 the Decatur City Council amended City code Chapter 28 to establish goals for Public Works contracts of ten (10) percent of the total dollar amount of the contract being performed by Minority Business Enterprises if subcontracting opportunities are available and eighteen (18) percent of the total hours worked being performed by minority workers.

Multi-Jurisdictional Transportation Planning

The Macon County/Decatur Beltway Northeast Connector and the Brush College Road – Fairies Parkway project represent the next phases in the continued development of the region's economic epicenter. The planned northeast connector would provide an integral point of access into the northeast part of the city and to the Midwest Inland Port, a multi-modal transportation hub and economic game-changer with market proximity to 95 million customers in a 500-mile radius. It will enhance freight mobility, improve connectivity and increase service reliability for customers of existing and new businesses. Today the city is pursuing right of way ownership in the Brush College Road/Faries Parkway area to help address travel-related issues including rail blockages and congested design. Our City, County and a team of other community economic drivers today are working together to develop and secure funding for the projects.

"EARLY ON WE SAW THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING THE CITY AND COUNTY TOGETHER TO COORDINATE OUR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS. IT HAS ALLOWED US TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AND TO PRESENT A SINGLE, CLEAR VISION TO LEGISLATORS AND TO THE PUBLIC WHICH WILL BE CRITICAL TO OUR FUTURE SUCCESS." - CITY MANAGER TIM GLEASON

SANITARY AND STORM SEWER UPGRADES UNDERWAY - Upwards of $70 million in known sanitary sewer problems and deferred maintenance today are being funded to fix critical sanitary sewer-related issues that have led to basement backups and overflow problems for many residents. Much of the work is being mandated by the U.S. EPA and paid for through approved increases for the sanitary sewer rate portion of local utility bills. More than $60 million in critical storm water improvements have also been targeted on a system that would extend south to Cairo and North past the borders of Gurnee if extended end to end. Funded through a stormwater utility use fee based on usage, work started with a list of the "top 10" list of priority projects that over the years had caused the most flooding and back-up issues for residents.

OPERATING ACHIEVEMENTS

GREEN DREDGING BOND ISSUE - Decatur City Council members approved a $30 million financing package for the continued improvement of the local water supply, a "green" bond issue that positioned the City as a trailblazing Illinois community and saved taxpayers in financing costs. "Green" bonds are debt instruments used to improve the environment or address climate related issues with funds in this instance used to create a sustainable local water supply

PHONE SYSTEM/NETWORK UPGRADE - Installation of a Voice over IP system expected to considerably reduce phone bills. Upgrades to the city's network gives users 10 times the speed.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AGREEMENT - Johnson Controls completed installing energy saving lighting, heating and cooling equipment at several City facilities.

CITY RANKS #1 WITH HUD, FRANCIE JOHNSON HONORED - According to the SNAPSHOT of HOME program performance, the City of Decatur is #1 in the State of Illinois. Francie Johnson won the Stella Stewart "Doing good in the Neighborhood award" at the 2016 Regional Neighborhood Network Conference. The RNNC is a 5 state regional conference held each year for local governments and Neighborhood leaders.

DECATUR POLICE DEPARTMENT - Increased community involvement through Town Hall meetings and participation in community events, working with the Boys and Girls Club, Caring Black Men, and the Old Kings Orchard Community Center among others.

STAFF REORGANIZATION - The Decatur City Council approved a citywide reorganization that will flatten the organization, lead to additional efficiencies and is anticipated to save city taxpayers in excess of $300,000 annually. The changes will also create a work environment that allows employees to operate most effectively and continue to provide critical public services to the community without layoffs.