



WDM eNews

From The City Manager

May 2013



In keeping with West Des Moines' long tradition of hosting major events, RAGBRAI is coming through West Des Moines Tuesday, July 23rd. Riders will be passing through town coming from Van Meter on their way to the overnight stop at Water Works Park in Des Moines. The route through West Des Moines will be Racoon River Drive, to Grand Avenue,

to Railroad Avenue to 5th Street, to Elm Street to 1st Street and south to Park to enter the City of Des Moines. Along the way, riders will be encouraged to stop and have a great time in Valley Junction. Plans are coming together for a party on 5th Street similar to Thursday nights during the summer. We've been calling it "Farmer's Market on a Tuesday afternoon" around the office. Fifth Street will be closed as with a typical Farmer's Market. One difference is that the main entertainment will be located farther north, near the City's

Human Services Building. As plans come together, we will be certain to share the details with our residents and businesses. The route roads will remain open to traffic as per RAGBRAI's usual practice for pass through towns and for good traffic connectivity through West Des Moines. The riders will be kept to the right lane, signage will advise both riders and motorists where they should be, and West Des Moines Police will be along the route to direct and assist traffic where necessary. We hope everyone will enjoy having RAGBRAI here and be patient with travel in the area of the route for that day.

For updates on West Des Moines plans for RAGBRAI, please watch the City Facebook page and our City Website at www.wdm.iowa.gov/RAGBRAI. For more general RAGBRAI updates please visit <http://ragbrai.com>.

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WDM Police Raising Funds For K9 Unit

Last month this space contained an article about the retirement of Rony, our City's K9 officer, after 9 years of service. The City of West Des Moines wishes to continue the K9 Unit and to expand it to include two K9 teams. The K9 Unit was first developed in October 2000 after a community survey indicated that narcotics enforcement was an area in which residents desired to have the police department focus. Properly trained K9s decrease the time it takes for officers to conduct a building search for hidden suspects and narcotics and increase officer safety by alerting officers to hidden dangers.

The K9 Unit assists school administrators with school narcotic sniffs of lockers and vehicles on school property and educating area youth about the dangers of drugs.

The West Des Moines Police Department hopes to raise \$70,000 for each K9 team which covers the purchase of the dog, an 18-week training course and needed equipment for the K9 and handler. The Department hopes to be able to raise enough for the first K9 Unit by July 1, 2013 in order to have the K9 patrolling the city by early 2014.

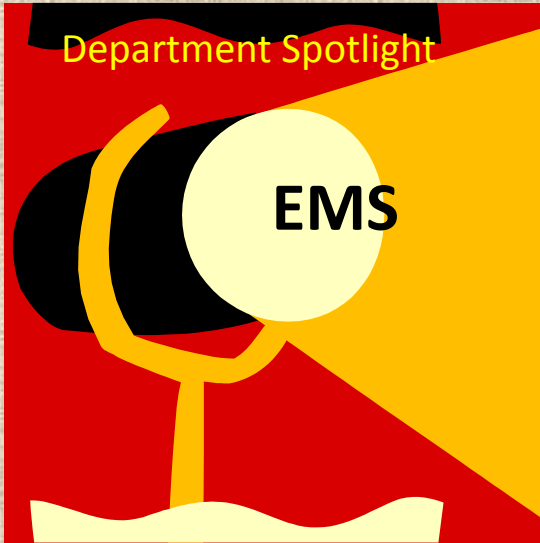
If you would like to make a donation to the K9 Unit or have further questions about the K9 Unit, contact Officer Brent Kock by phone at 515-222-3320 or email Brent.Kock@wdm.iowa.gov. Donations can be mailed to WDMPD K9 Unit, P.O. Box 65320, 250 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265-0320.



**OFFICER BRENT KOCK
&
K9 RONY**

Academy.com

Department Spotlight



Recently there were a series of articles in the Des Moines Register regarding EMS systems in Iowa. These articles are not indicative of the high level of service provided by the West Des Moines EMS Department. The City of West Des Moines EMS has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services since 2001 and is one of only three ambulance services in the state that are accredited. The West Des Moines Fire and Police Departments are also accredited, making West Des Moines one of only three cities in the entire nation with all three public safety departments accredited and among 39 in the nation with both Police and Fire accredited.



Accreditation surpasses Iowa Department of Public Health EMS Bureau Guidelines and is the gold standard for ambulances to obtain on a national level.

Staffing and Coverage:

The West Des Moines EMS has three ambulances staffed by Paramedics 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The City has the ability to bring on two additional ambulance crews through agreements with other agencies during especially busy times. Each ambulance is staffed at the Critical Care Paramedic Level, which is a professional endorsement that all West Des Moines Paramedics have beyond a paramedic certification. In addition, the West Des Moines EMS has two phy-

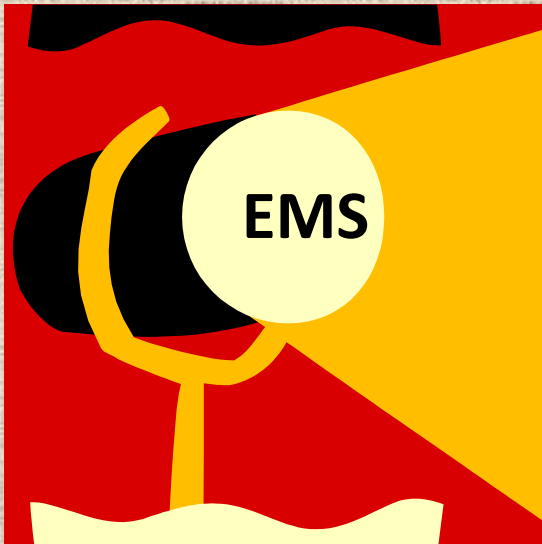
sician medical directors who oversee operations and who approve of all protocols in responding to calls. Both physician medical directors are emergency room physicians.

Ambulances are stationed through the city to provide the most rapid and efficient response to calls for service. Because the ambulances are mobile units, they can be moved when one is on a call to ensure the remaining two ambulances are in the most optimum position to respond to a call anywhere in the city.

Hiring Process:

All full-time staff are hired through the Civil Service Process. The Human Resources Department completes criminal background checks on all new hires through the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation and with out of state agencies for those new hires coming from out of state.





All new hires must pass interviews, written testing, physical ability testing and a post offer physical and drug screen. All applicants are confirmed to be properly certified through the Iowa Department of Public Health Database and reference checks are completed on all applicants.

Driving:

All medics must have a Class D endorsement driver’s license which is checked annually to ensure each medic has a valid license. All medics must pass a national emergency vehicle operation course before they are allowed to drive an ambulance. All medics also

must pass an initial practice driving test with the ambulance. Each year all medics receive continuing education and must successfully pass a practical driving test through a set course.

Response Standards:

The West Des Moines EMS response time standard is 8 minutes or less 90% of the time from the time the dispatcher receives the call to the time an ambulance arrives on the scene. This is a national standard for emergency ambulance response. The West Des Moines EMS meets this standard greater than 90% of the time. The majority of responses are 5 minutes or less.

The City of West Des Moines is fortunate to have such an exemplary EMS Department of highly skilled professionals. For more information on the West Des Moines EMS Department visit

www.wdm.iowa.gov/ems.



West Des Moines Police have recently taken multiple reports of theft from motor vehicles. Several of the thefts have occurred at various fitness centers during morning hours with laptops, purses and wallets being stolen by either breaking a window or due to the door being unlocked. Please take precautions to ensure you don’t become a victim of theft.

CRIME PREVENTION TIP

How Can You Prevent A Theft From Your Vehicle?...

- The biggest deterrent to theft from vehicles is to keep all valuables out of sight and, if possible, in the trunk.
- After removing valuables from your vehicle —LOCK IT UP! By locking the vehicle, it will deter thieves from getting inside and possibly activating a trunk or hood release.
- Always report suspicious activity to law enforcement as soon as possible.

2013 National Police Week

The West Des Moines Police Department will be hosting Police Week activities on Thursday, May 16th from 5:00-8:00 PM at the Law Enforcement Center, located at 250 Mills Civic Parkway. Come out for this event and become better acquainted with the operations and personnel of our police agencies and help to honor those officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

There will be displays of police vehicles from several agencies along with fire and EMS vehicles, a Des Moines Police Department mounted horse patrol, a State Bomb Truck, Tactical Vehicles, games, food, prizes and much more!

The opening ceremony will take place from 5:00-5:30 PM with a picnic and activities to follow until 8:00 PM.



A-MAY-ZING DAYS

A Celebration of
West Des Moines

The 6th annual A-MAY-Zing Days (beginning May 1) is a month-long celebration recognizing individuals, organizations and activities that make West Des Moines a great place to live, work and play. Residents of the Greater Des Moines metro are invited to be a part of West Des Moines' biggest celebration ever – with events and activities spread across all corners of our community.

The A-MAY-Zing Days calendar of events will showcase community favorites like the YESS Duck Derby, Bill Riley Talent Show, Citizen of the Year Reception, Festivale Cinco de Mayo, weekly Valley Junction Farmers Markets and Music in the Junction, RUNZING IV, Spring Art Market and more. The A-May-Zing Days calendar continues to grow, with new events being added annually. Look for our booth this year at the YESS Duck Derby where you can pick up an activity calendar and grab some fun A-May-Zing Days “tattoos” for the kids.



A-May-Zing Days concludes its annual celebration with Smokin' in the Junction, two great days of barbecue with and live music in Historic Valley Junction (May 25-26). The event features a Kansas City Barbecue Society Sanctioned Barbecue Contest with cash prizes, food vendors, and exhibitors, kids' activities including inflatables, a beverage garden and live music by regional bands. For more information about competing, vending, judging, sponsor packages or volunteer opportunities, please contact the Historic Valley Junction Foundation office at 515-222-3642 or Brian Sweeney at pitmaster@sweeneysbarbecue.com.

Again in 2013, multiple AMD event proceeds will benefit Booster Pak, an area not-for-profit organization that provides nutritious food to 600+ area children on weekends and school breaks when they do not have access to free or reduced meal programs. Find more information on-site at many of our events or at boosterpak.org. We will also be distributing literature and collecting funds on-site. More than \$5,000 was raised for Booster Pak in 2012.

Visit www.amazingdays.com for event details and check out the [A-May-Zing Days Facebook page](#) for event updates and photos from recent events. We'll be adding more information including performing bands and other activities in the coming month as well as a printable month-long activity calendar.

The committee thanks the primary A-May-Zing Days sponsors: Aviva USA, the City of West Des Moines, West Des Moines Chamber and West Bank for their annual support. A number of community members also donate their time and professional services in order to put on a successful celebration.

FARMERS' MARKET

The Valley Junction Farmers Market kicks off on Thursday, May 2nd and takes place every Thursday through September from 4 pm to 8 pm. Enjoy a vast selection of fresh produce, baked goods, kettle corn, crafts and flowers. Live outdoor music in the Junction can be heard from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The Transportation Department at WDM Human Services is looking forward to providing shuttle service again this year to market attendees. Park at Hillside Elementary at 8th and Grand, and catch a ride down to 5th Street on the Human Services shuttle bus. Come join the fun!



SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY SUPPER IN OUR TOWN

WDM Human Services will hold its 4th annual "Sunday Supper In Our Town" fundraising event at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar on September 29, 2013. This fundraising dinner benefits low-income, elderly and disabled residents in our service area. Over 100 guests attended the 2012 event last fall, raising over \$30,000. Proceeds benefit the programs of WDM Human Services which include emergency assistance, youth scholarships, transitional housing, a food and personal care pantry and program outreach services. **Sponsorship opportunities are available.** Please contact Mindy Hotovec at 222-3663 for more information.



City Calendars of Events.

Click the links below for calendars of events at the City of West Des Moines.

[City of West Des Moines \(all\)](#) Once at the City calendar you can filter by department.

[Library](#)



Discounted Pool Passes for Low-Income Households

Help low-income kids make a splash this summer! If you know of a WDM family in need, please ask them to stop by the WDM Human Services office to see if they might be eligible for discounted swim passes to the West Des Moines pools. What a great way for families to spend time together while keeping cool and having fun! Please call 222-3660 for more information.



Springtime Fire Safety

The arrival of spring is a great time to remember and practice the following fire safety tips:

- Check all smoke detectors in your home and replace the batteries inside them
- Make sure all windows and doors on your home open easily and as far as they were designed to do
- Ensure your address is clearly visible from the street
- If you're putting away holiday decorations, take time to check light strands or extension cords for damage. If you find any damage, throw them away to prevent an accident next holiday season
- Discuss and practice fire escape plans with all family members to ensure everyone will know what to do should a fire happen in your home.

Outdoor cooking grills cause more than 6,000 fires annually in the United States. Most charcoal grill fires are the result of hot embers falling on wood decks or being too close to buildings during use, while the majority of gas grill fires are caused by tank leaks, blocked tubes or being too close to buildings during use. As the weather starts to get nice, outdoor grills will start getting used more frequently. Make sure your grill is in proper working condition and be sure to only use them a safe distance away from combustible materials and buildings.



What IS Public Works?

Discover **Public Works** by bringing the family down to Valley Junction for the annual National Public Works Week Celebration!

Thursday, May 23rd from 4PM to 7PM

This fun (and free!) family event has become a tradition for many residents. Public Works staff is present with lots of know-how, answers, information, and . . . yes, the big equipment to explore! PAWS, the national Public Works mascot will be joining the event once again!

Lots of free fun is included in this event: games, face painting, balloon artistry, photos with PAWS, climbing up into the big equipment, snow cones.



Construction Update

With winter behind us, you'll be seeing construction crews working . . . please give them plenty of room for safety, and drive slowly! Information is always available on the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov | Your Government | Public Works | Construction Updates; however, here is a quick link for ease in determining the specific locations which may be affected by construction: [WDM Website Construction Update](#)

Several projects active during May are:

Southwest Connector Phase III – Hwy. 28 is reduced to one lane in each direction. Browns Woods drive (WDM) and SW McKinley (DM) are closed.

PCC Patching – Various streets will be receiving pavement patching.

Parking Lots – 4th Street and 6th Street in the Valley Junction area

Vine Street from 1st Street to 6th Street – starting around the 1st of June