



October 2014

West Des Moines *ENewsletter*



Kicking off the FY 15-16 Budget Season!

Fall is here! Temperatures are cooling, the City parking lot is filled with cars for Friday Night games, and another successful Illumifest is in the books! But for public servants in Iowa, there is another fall activity to add to the list: Budget Development. City Staff and the Mayor and Council will begin a series of preparation meetings to review the needs and

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In the News.....2

LIHEAP.....3

Give Thanks.....4

Compost It.....5

Construction Updates.....6

priorities for FY 15-16 for both the operational budget and the Capital Improvement Plan. As always, the budget will focus on investments that further the goals of the governing body, which include becoming a 'Preferred Location for Business,' a 'Leader in Providing Infrastructure,' fostering a 'Innovative, Creative, and Service Centered Organization,' 'Unmatched Opportunities to Enjoy Life,' 'Safe Community,' 'Exceptional Steward of Community Resources,' and attract and develop the 'Highest educated workforce in the Midwest.'



Budget and CIP work sessions will be open to the public and held in the City Hall Council Chambers. Additionally, meetings summaries will be posted to the City Website and also the City Facebook Account to give a summary of the discussion that was held and outstanding issues. Citizen engagement is paramount to a successful local government and I encourage all to attend the work sessions or keep up on discussions through meeting notes. My office is always open for suggestions or questions regarding the process. Call or email anytime at (515) - 3610.

Connect with us!

Wdm.Iowa.Gov



City Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The City accepted an award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the FY 14-15 budget presentation. The GFOA evaluates government entity budgets and their ability to meet 4 main criteria including: a policy document, a financial plan, operations guide, and communications device.

The full press release can be viewed, [here](#).

Beggar's Night in WDM

Beggar's night in West Des Moines will follow the Des Moines Metro Area schedule and be held on October 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



EP True Parkway Trail Closure

The half mile section of the E.P. True Parkway Trail from S. 26th Street to Jordan Creek is scheduled to be closed for renovation beginning Tuesday, September 30th. The project is part of the annual Trail Maintenance program and is scheduled to be concluded in 4-6 weeks. We ask all riders to adhere to the construction warning signs during this time.

View the full release, [here](#).



Human Services Department is **Moving!**

For those of you who haven't heard, Human Services is moving to a new location just down the street! Our new address is 139 6th Street at the corner of 6th and Maple in Valley Junction. Our anticipated moving date is the weekend of October 17th, with the goal to be up and running in our new offices on October 20th. Look for more details for an open house event in January!

Clothing Closet Donations

With the change of seasons, the Clothing Closet at West Des Moines Human Services is in need of **fall and winter clothing and shoes**. We are also in need of small household items including **towels, BLANKETS, sheets, and kitchen items**. Items in the Clothing Closet are available to qualifying, low-income households at no charge. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4 pm at 318 5th Street (or at our new location at 139 6th Street, effective October 20th). We encourage you to complete a donation receipt for your records and to help us measure donations.



LIHEAP: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program— Now Available!

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal social services program created to assist low income households with their home energy needs. LIHEAP offers one-time financial assistance to households who require support in meeting their higher heating costs during the winter months. LIHEAP is not intended to pay a household's total energy costs, but is meant to provide assistance with the payments of residential heating costs. Payments are made directly to the households' utility vendor. To be eligible, applicants must have an income less than 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. The program is meant to target those who are most vulnerable: the disabled, the elderly and families with young children.

If you live in western Polk County and are interested in applying for the LIHEAP program, please contact West Des Moines Human Services to arrange an appointment, or you may walk into the office to meet with staff who can complete your application. You will be told at the time of your appointment whether you are eligible and if so, for what amount you might qualify. Dallas County residents, please call New Opportunities at 515-465-5185 to apply. **Required documents include:**

1. Proof of income for all household members. This would include documentation of earned wages, self-employment, Social Security/SSI, child support, pension/retirement funds, dividend earnings, unemployment, FIP, etc. for three months (13 weeks) preceding the date of application, or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return
2. Documentation of social security numbers for all household members
3. Copy of your most recent heating/electric bill

Households may begin applying the first business day in November, or October 1st if someone in the household is elderly or disabled.

Weatherization Program

Low income homeowners can apply for weatherization at the West Des Moines Human Services office. The purpose of the weatherization program is to help low income homeowners reduce their energy costs. An individual's household income must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to be eligible. Families that have been approved for LIHEAP may also be approved to receive weatherization services. An eligibility priority list is compiled from applications received and services are provided to families based on their position on the list. These services include energy audits on the home to help locate efficiency problems, insulating walls, windows and the attic, sealing cracks and holes in walls, floors and ceilings and cleaning and tuning the furnace. As a homeowner, this help is provided at no cost. The weatherization work is paid for with federal, state and utility funds. This work, along with the homeowner's efforts, will help to lower heating, cooling and electrical costs.

Embrace Iowa

Embrace Iowa is an assistance program offered through The Des Moines Register. It is funded by donations from local businesses and residents. The assistance consists of cash grants to households that are experiencing an emergency or hardship and need some type of short term financial help. Some examples of non-routine emergency expenses that may be requested include medical bills, prescription medication and other health care costs as well as home and auto repairs, beds, appliances and even mortgage payments. Embrace Iowa is intended for unemployed or underemployed households who are considered to be low income based on federal poverty guidelines.

If you would like more information about any of these programs or would like to apply, please contact West Des Moines Human Services at 222 -3660 or visit our website at www.wdmhumanservices.com.

Opportunities to Give Thanks!

2014 Holiday Giving Opportunities

Bring joy to someone's life this holiday season by helping a family in need through the West Des Moines Human Services **Holiday Assistance Program**. West Des Moines Human Services has been compassionately helping people in need since 1979. As a department with the City of West Des Moines, we are a non-profit agency that provides necessary assistance to low-income, elderly and disabled individuals in our service area. Many of the households we serve are surviving on very limited incomes and struggle to afford even the most basic necessities. Some are faced with hardships that make it difficult to feel the joy of the holiday season.

YOU can make a difference! Please consider providing assistance in any of the following ways:

- **ADOPT-A-FAMILY** for the holidays by providing gifts for the children in the household (up to age 18). Your gifts may be delivered direct to the family, or you may deliver to West Des Moines Human Services.
- Make a **MONETARY DONATION** to assist the department in helping those less fortunate during the holiday season and throughout the year.
- Provide **NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS OR GIFT CARDS** for children (newborn through 18 years of age) to support our annual Toyland program. Toyland is available to low-income families who are not sponsored through the Adopt-A-Family program.
- Provide a **FOOD BASKET OR GIFT CARD** for food from a local grocery provider to assist a low-income family.

With your help, we can brighten the holiday season for many in our own community. Please contact Mindy Hotovec at 222-3663 or Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov to learn more, or visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/adoptafamily. If you select to sponsor a household, you will be matched with a family and information will be forwarded to you.



What Can You Compost through Compost It!?

In Iowa, we have the pleasure of experiencing all four seasons. Fall, a favorite among many, is when we think of cooler weather and raking the fallen leaves. Conveniently, our Compost It! program accepts your leaves and other yard and garden waste at the curb.

There are some misconceptions about what is and is not accepted in the program, so below is a quick reference:

Accepted

Leaves, Grass, Brush, Garden Vegetables-including pumpkins, and flowers

Not Accepted

Dirt and rocks, Plastic bags, Pots, Stumps, Concrete and building materials, Garbage, and Food scraps

Cups, plates, and utensils labeled compostable are **not accepted** in the Compost It! program.

Yard waste season ends November 29. Make sure you're prepared and stock up on Compost It! bags, or store brand bags and Compost It! stickers. It's the Compost It! name on the bag or sticker that covers the cost of collection. Another option is to sign up for the **Premium Yard Waste Collection** program, which allows participants to use a 96 gallon wheeled container for weekly collection. This container holds up to three full Compost It! Bags. The cost of the cart is \$80 if delivered to the residence or \$60 if the resident picks up the cart at the Public Works facility. For more information about the Premium Yard Waste Collection program, visit wdm.iowa.gov.



Reminder – Fall/Winter hours have taken effect for Metro Hazardous Waste Drop Off. The facility, located in Bondurant, will be open from 8 a.m. to noon every **first** and **third** Saturday of the month. The Fall/Winter hours continue through the end of May. For more information on the Compost It! Program, visit www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call Metro Waste Authority at 515.244.0021.

Plan for the Ban!

Even with the expertise of our crews, they still need *your* help during snow events. If the City receives measurable snowfall and the snow plows are deployed, there may be a parking ban in effect. To avoid the hassle of digging your car out of the snow, paying a \$50 fine or being towed, there are a number of ways you can check for a parking ban:

- ⇒ Call the Snow Hotline at 273-0766 (accessible 24/7!)
- ⇒ Check the City's home page at www.wdm.iowa.gov
- ⇒ Sign up for e-updates for immediate notifications

Follow the City of West Des Moines on Facebook and Twitter

We thank you for your help in keeping our snow plow drivers safe and the City streets clean this winter!



Don't let this happen to you!

2013 Sidewalk Program

Staff has sent approximately 370 notification letters to the affected property owners. The area of the program this year is primarily 1st Street from Hoak Drive to Railroad Avenue. The contract has been awarded to The Concrete Company. They plan to start the week of September 8th. It is anticipated they will have all repairs done this fall.

2014 Sidewalk Program

Staff has sent approximately 820 notifications to property owners in the general area of 19th Street to Valley West Drive from EP True Parkway to University Avenue.

2014 PCC Reconstruction Program (Vine Street-6th Street to 9th Street)

The contractor has completed watermain relocation, sanitary sewer manhole replacement and storm sewer structures and pipe installations in the 8th Street/Vine Street intersection area. The contractor has reopened 8th Street. Vine Street remains closed from 8th Street to 6th Street. The contractor will be done with utility work on this phase next week and should begin building road base for paving.

2014 Sump Pump Program

The contractor has completed all sump pump line installations and continues to work on pouring driveways and sidewalks. The contractor has been trying to get the area ready for sod but conditions have been very wet. As soon as weather allows they will complete the sod restoration.

2014 Intake Program

The contractor has completed all 18 intakes and is working on turf restoration.

Woodland Park Sewer Rehabilitation

The contractor has completed the sewer installation. They will address turf restoration early this fall.

Sheraton & North Slope Lift Station Improvements

The contractor has completed all lift station work with the exception of some pipe coating and turf restoration.

2014 Sewer Lining Program

The contractor has completed 95% of the work on the project. There is a segment that has been put on hold due to the location of the work and the soft conditions in the yards. Once site conditions dry



2014 Sewer Rehabilitation Program

The contractor has completed repairs at all 8 locations. They will address turf restoration early this fall.

2014 HMA Program

The contractor is working on patching an intermediate course along Ashworth Road from 16th Street to 11th Street. There will be one Saturday in which the contractor will need to close the street entirely for final paving and traffic striping.

2014 PCC Patching Program Phase I

The contractors have completed patching on 56th Street. They are approximately 80% complete on South 19th Street. The contractor has 19th Street open to traffic but has been off the project for the past week and a half. That work will be done under traffic as a single lane road with alternating traffic. We anticipate they will resume on 19th Street the week of September 8th.