



November
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West Des Moines *ENewsletter*



Celebrating a Milestone: Grand Prairie Parkway Groundbreaking

The Cities of West Des Moines and Waukee jointly broke ground on October 15th kicking off the Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange project. Senator Tom Latham, Waukee Mayor Bill Peard and West Des Moines Mayor Steve Gaer all contributed comments at the ceremony celebrating the project that's been more than a decade in the making. Held on the Grand Prairie Parkway Bridge connecting Waukee and West Des Moines, both West Des Moines and Waukee city councils attended, along with local business leaders. The collaborative project has a price tag of more than \$23 million, which includes engineering, inspection, purchase of the nearby rest area and contingencies. The cities will share the cost equally. The Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange will be a signature entrance off Interstate 80

And will serve as a vital link in continued commercial and residential growth in both Waukee and West Des Moines. Interchange drivers will be able to access the technology corridor in West Des Moines to the south, and the future Kettlestone development in Waukee to the north. "Grand Prairie Parkway is an example of how regional collaboration efforts can have an abundant return on investment," said Steve Gaer, Mayor of West Des Moines. "The interchange will open thousands of acres for new development, a new north-south



Pictured above: Waukee Mayor and Council, Congressman Latham and the West Des Moines Mayor and Council

route for traveling throughout the Western Des Moines Metropolitan area, and most importantly, additional opportunities for individuals and businesses to thrive in Iowa." The most innovative aspect of the Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange is its diverging diamond design—a first-of-its-kind transportation feature in Iowa. The diverging diamond design is well-known in other parts of the country for improving the safety of traffic entering interstate systems and allowing for increased vehicle capacity and reductions in time delays. The design also utilizes a smaller overall footprint which requires less right-of-way and leaves more room for development activity. The interchange project is anticipated to begin in the coming month, while it is planned to reach completion in December 2015. Early estimates of traffic counts show 12,000 drivers a day will access the interchange once complete.

Connect with us!

Wdm.Iowa.Gov



Human Services Department has Moved!

The West Des Moines Human Services Department has now moved into its new office location at 139 6th Street at the corner of 6th and Maple in Valley Junction. Look for more details about the open house after the holidays!



Bacon, Bacon! Opens in WDM

The 6th Jethros restaurant has opened on 22nd Street in West Des Moines. The fan favorite will offer a variety of bacon items with all day breakfast and the traditional barbeque menu. Read more, [here](#).

Jordan Creek Greenway Trail Closure

The Jordan Creek Greenway Trail will be closed for several weeks to complete the 39th Street paving project. Citizens are asked to obey all construction signs in place during the time of the closure. For more information, call Development Services at (515) 222- 3620.

WDM: Top 10 Best Places to Call Home

Movoto.com rated the West Des Moines in the Top 10 places to live in the Midwest. Tied for 5th with Manhattan, Kansas. Read more on the top 10 cities, [here](#).

Sunday Supper Fundraising Event A Success

West Des Moines Human Services held its 5th annual **Sunday Supper In Our Town** fundraising benefit on September 28th at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar in West Des Moines. The event was hosted by Steve and Sally Gaer, Tom and Tina Hadden, Russ and Alana Trimble, Tammy and Vince Cline, and Wendy and Dennis Ogden. More than 120 guests attended the dinner benefiting programs for low-income, elderly and disabled residents in the western suburbs. Sponsors included Athene, Ahlers & Cooney P.C., R & R Realty Group, Frank Berlin & Associates, La-Marca & Landry P.C., Steve & Sally Gaer, Russ & Alana Trimble, Shive-Hattery Inc., West Bank, Bankers Trust, Career Search Associates, Great Western Bank, Mowry Strategies, 3E Electrical Engineering, UnityPoint Health, Valley Eye Clinic, McGladrey, Foth, HDR, Vista Real Estate, McClure Engineering, Jamie Ward, Foster Group, Lincoln Savings Bank and the West Des Moines Community Enrichment Foundation. Their support helped raise more than \$30,000 at the event. Proceeds benefit the programs of West Des Moines Human Services which include emergency assistance, a food and personal care pantry, youth recreational assistance and other services.



Serving the Citizens of Greater WDM

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.

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.



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.



Preparing for Winter...



2014 APWA Operator Training / Snow Rodeo

The Operator Training/Snow Plow Rodeo is an annual event that this year combined end loader and snow plow operator training as well as a snow plow rodeo competition. This year's event was held September 30th-October 2nd at the Iowa State Fairgrounds with participants from governmental agencies all across the state. The event is a great way for our crews to fine-tune their skills for the upcoming winter season as well as join in a little friendly competition. Once again our West Des Moines crew took top honors in several categories in the Snow Rodeo:

Rodeo Truck Competition

- 1st Place – Nathan Geil & Jeff Sherman
- 3rd Place – Derek Muche & Wayne Barrett
- 4th Place – Trevor Bindel & Laramie Sandbulte

Rodeo Loader Competition

- 1st Place – Derek Muche
- 2nd Place – Mark Adair
- 3rd Place – Trevor Bindel
- 4th Place – Jeff Sherman

We're very proud of our West Des Moines Snow Plow Operators, congratulations guys!

A local news station had coverage of the event, see the story at <http://whotv.com/2014/10/02/snow-rodeo-in-des-moines-prepares-workers-for-winter/>.

Reminder: The 2014 Yard Waste Pick-up ends November 28th!. For more details, go to www.wiowa.gov or whereitshouldgo.com.



Say It Isn't Snow...

This is the time of year when everyone pays a little closer attention to the weather forecast. When is that first snowfall going to occur? How *much* snowfall are we going to get? When it does snow, when will my street be plowed?

With an estimated population of over 63,800 residents, over 770 lane miles of streets and high expectation levels from the motoring public, the City of West Des Moines takes a serious approach to the problems associated with snow and ice control. The City's responsibility is to conduct winter maintenance activities expediently, efficiently, and safely with the following snow removal priorities:

1. All **arterial streets** – the major street network which must be kept open to provide a continual transportation system for police, fire, and rescue squad units.
2. All remaining **residential streets** including cul-de-sacs.
3. **Alleys** and **City parking lots**.

To accomplish the effective removal of snow, a **Snow Emergency Parking Ban** may be implemented by the Public Works Department. So if the forecast indicates snow or winter weather conditions, remember to check the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov, "Like" the City of West Des Moines on Facebook, "Follow" us on Twitter, or call the Snow Hotline at 273-0766 to see if a parking ban is in place.

Woodland Park Sewer Rehabilitation

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

Sheraton & North Slope Lift Station Improvements

Status: The contractor has completed all lift station work with the exception of turf restoration.

2014 Sewer Lining Program

Status: 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. The contractor will complete the remaining lines in the next few weeks.

2013 Sidewalk Program

Status: The area of the program this year is primarily 1st Street to 8th Street from Hoak Drive to Railroad Avenue. The industrial area is also included within the project area. It is anticipated the contractor will have completed all repairs in the next two weeks.

2014 Sidewalk Program

Status: 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)

Status: 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 tie-ins to all the side streets will be completed by the weekend of October 18th. The week of October 20th the contractor will be focusing on the sidewalk ramps, driveway approaches and alleys. There will be a week of backfilling and clean-up work to do. It is projected this phase will reopen early November.



2014 Sewer Rehabilitation Program

Status: The contractor has completed all repairs and is working on turf restoration.

2014 HMA Program

Status: The contractor has completed EP True Parkway, Ashworth Road, Linwell, Prospect and Hillside, and 23rd Street. They will be working on South 50th Street and Briar Ridge area the next 2-4 weeks. The contractor will be paving Walnut Woods Drive October 22nd.

2014 PCC Patching Program Phase 1

Status: The contractors have completed the patching on 56th Street. The contractor is patching Fuller Road from South 16th Street to Grand Avenue. When they patch adjacent to the Jordan Creek Bridge, Fuller Road will be closed from Friday night to Monday morning. The weekend that will occur is yet to be determined.