



December
2014

West Des Moines *ENewsletter*



Wishing You and Your Family a Happy, Safe, and Healthy Holiday Season

The Holiday Season is quickly approaching and I would like to take time to wish all the Citizens of West Des Moines a happy holiday season and New Year. 2015 is quickly approaching and looking positive with many projects and initiatives on the horizon. Two very important projects that will touch many of our citizens will be the 2015 Special Census and also the Citizen Survey. Recruitment for the Special Census is expected to begin the end of February and the City will be recruiting for more than 750 people in the Greater Des Moines Area to help with field work and administrative needs of the project. More information and how to be apart of this project will be posted at www.wdm.iowa.gov.

Another opportunity in 2015 to engage within your community will be the Citizen Survey. Many households in West Des Moines will be asked to rate city services and let us know how we can serve you better. We look for feedback and appreciate all those that take the time to fill out the survey. Citizen input and engagement is always welcome and encouraged. Our website, online service desk, social media, and council meetings are just a few ways ask questions or present ideas. I am looking forward to working together for a bright and productive 2015-Happy New Year!



Pictured above: West Des Moines Public Library, the Campus pond, and the Valley High School Stadium.

Connect with us! Wdm.Iowa.Gov



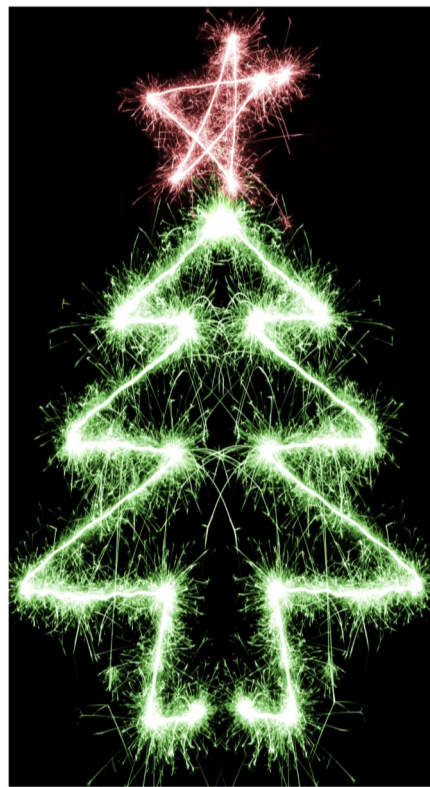
Opportunities to Give

Holiday Giving Opportunities

Efforts are underway at West Des Moines Human Services to help make the holidays bright for households who are surviving on limited incomes and struggle to meet the most basic necessities. There is still time for you to make a difference! You can do this by:

- Providing a food basket or grocery gift card
- Adopting a family for the holidays by providing gifts for the children in the household
- Providing new, unwrapped toys or gifts to support our annual Toyland program. Toyland is available to low-income families who are not sponsored through the Adopt-A-Family program. It serves children from infants to age 18 - **gifts for teens are especially needed!**
- Making a monetary donation to assist the department in helping those less fortunate during the holiday season and throughout the year

For more information, please contact Mindy Hotovec at melinda.hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov or 515-222-3663, or by visiting our website at www.wdmhumanservices.com



Holiday Assistance Programs

West Des Moines Human Services offers several programs to assist low-income families during the holiday season. If you or a family you know is in need, please contact our office at 222-3660 to learn more.



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.



Preparing for Winter...

Christmas Tree & Winter Yard Waste Collection December 29-January 9



The holidays often include bringing in the new and disposing of the old. As you're shuffling things around, make sure to get your Christmas tree to the curb in time for collection. Christmas trees, just like yard waste, are collected from the curb and recycled into compost. Trees are picked up on your regular garbage day between December 29th through January 9th, and they must have a Compost It! sticker attached. Stickers are sold at participating grocery and hardware stores for \$1.20. Please remove all decorations. Wreaths and garland are not accepted.

This is also the last chance to have any remaining yard debris collected before spring. Be sure to use your Compost It! yard waste cart, Compost It! bags, or attach Compost It! stickers to generic bags to ensure your yard waste is picked up. For more information about yard waste collection, visit Metro Waste Authority at www.WherItShouldGo.com or call 515-244-0021.

Winter Weather Reminders

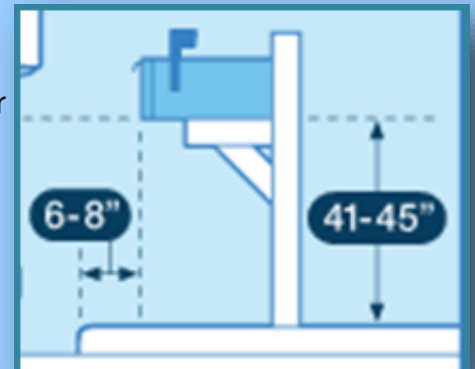
Snow can create a beautiful, glittering, winter wonderland but it can also create many hazards. By adhering to the following guidelines, you can stay safe this winter season.

Sidewalks – Treacherous conditions on uncleared sidewalks can cause serious injuries. Residents are required by ordinance to clear sidewalks (including those crossing alleys, crosswalks, and driveways) within 24 hours of the end of a storm. Snow from sidewalks should be placed on private property or adjacent to the right-of-way, **not** in the street. Clear your sidewalk after the snowplows have completely finished plowing your street to the curb. If the sidewalk is icy, please apply sand or applicable deicer product to lessen the hazard and reduce pedestrian injury.

Mailboxes – The City will plow snow within the confines of curb line to curb line of a street. During extreme winter events there may be times when the City plows cannot physically place the snow onto the public right-of-way. During these times, the resident will be responsible for clearing the snow around their mailbox to ensure delivery of mail. The resident is also responsible for ensuring their mailbox is properly installed:

- Face of the door at least six (6") inches, but not more than eight (8") inches, behind the face of the curb.
- Post should be at least twenty-four (24") inches away from the face of the curb & constructed to withstand snow clearing efforts but meet "breakaway" criteria.

How do you know if your mailbox is compliant? Each Fall, staff conducts pre-season inspections of mailbox placement throughout the community. If a mailbox is found to be out of compliance, they'll notify the resident with a door hanger so the proper corrections can be made before the winter season. Damage to mailboxes that haven't been repaired or brought into compliance will not be eligible for a claim adjustment.



City Construction Updates

Woodland Park Sewer Rehabilitation: Status: All work is complete and we are in the project closeout phase.

Sheraton & North Slope Lift Station Improvements: Status: All work is complete and we are in the project closeout phase.

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 is on hold to complete the last few lines.

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. The project should be completed the week of November 10th and the project closeout phase will begin.

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 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, 23rd Street, South 50th Street, and Walnut Woods. The contractor will be paving Briar Ridge area the week of November 10th.

2014 PCC Patching Program Phase 1: Status: The contractors have completed the patching on 56th Street and South 19th Street. The contractor is patching Fuller Road from South 16th Street to Grand Avenue. They are finishing up Fuller Road and will be moving to Mills Civic Parkway next to the WDM Law Enforcement Center.

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. The project should be completed the week of November 10th and the project closeout phase will begin.

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 contractor is backfilling and cleaning up from 6th to 8th Street. They should have the sod installed and the street reopened the week of November 10th. We have postponed the section from 8th to 9th Street until spring 2015.

39th Street Paving

Status: This project will pave 39th Street from EP True Parkway to the railroad tracks. Mainline paving began on November 3rd. Approximately 2 weeks of paving work at the intersection with EP True Parkway. Contract date for reopening is November 26th. Culvert headwall work will be ongoing through the winter. Sidewalks and final cleanup will begin in spring.

Pine Avenue Paving

Status: This project will pave Pine Avenue in proximity of the Microsoft Project. Approximately 80% of paving is complete. Culvert replacement and grading for final pour this week. Storm sewer work will begin following culvert replacement.

Cascade Avenue Trunk Sewer

Status: Clearing and grubbing is complete. Open-cut work on sanitary sewer will commence on November 3rd. Bore/tunnel work under South 81st and Cascade is scheduled to start the week of November 10th.