



June
2015

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

As flowers bloom and our parks come alive, this is a great time of year to get outside and discover all the wonderful recreational activities we have available in West Des Moines! It's the perfect time to check out our trail system for a relaxing walk or bike ride. With our aquatic centers opening for the season and our summer sports activities gearing up, there's no shortage of fun ways to enjoy all our community has to offer.

New Spring Cleanup rules

With summer on the horizon, it's also a good time to tackle spring cleaning and dispose of items you no longer

need or want in your home or garage. In response to feedback we've received about the mess scavengers were making in our neighborhoods, we've revised the rules for our Annual Spring Cleanup. This year's pickup takes place on your regular garbage collection day during the week of June 1–5.



We've also scheduled a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off at City Hall on Saturday morning, June 27. For details, see the articles on pages 2 and 3.

Public Works Week

If you didn't have a chance to take the kids to our Public Works Week celebration at the Farmer's Market in Valley Junction, make sure you mark your calendar for next year's event on May 19, 2016. This year's celebration was on a beautiful day, and the kids had a ball climbing on the big equipment (see photos on page 4).

We owe a lot to the people who plow our snow, clean our sewers and maintain our roads and traffic signals. We're fortunate to have a top-notch Public Works Department in West Des Moines!

Connect with us!

www.wdm.iowa.gov



Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event on Saturday, June 27

8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) at WDM City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Parkway



When was the last time you cleaned out under your kitchen sink? What about your garage or storage shed? Do you know what to do with unused and unwanted products you'll find like oven cleaner, furniture polish and insect repellent? What about old automotive stuff like car wax, motor oil or antifreeze?

Common items such as these, as well as any product that says "toxic, flammable or keep out of reach of children," are considered hazardous waste and DON'T BELONG in your regular trash! Knowing how to properly get rid of these items benefits everyone – including the environment.

Smart, Safe and Convenient Disposal

West Des Moines residents have several options to dispose of hazardous material for free, including the Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event on Saturday, June 27.

What to Bring?

Come prepared by reviewing a [list of accepted and not accepted items](#).

What NOT to Bring:

- ◆ Latex paint ([learn how to safely dispose in garbage](#))
- ◆ Electronic waste ([find other local options](#))
- ◆ Pharmaceuticals ([read about local take-backs](#))
- ◆ Tires ([area drop-offs](#))

If this date or location doesn't work for you, visit the Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, a year-round drop-off located at 1105 Prairie Drive SW in Bondurant.

For more information about safe and smart disposal options, visit www.WhereltShouldGo.com.

A graphic with a light blue background and a list of hazardous materials. At the top, there is a small image of various household items like a bag of Scott's Turf Builder, a can of WD-40, and a bottle of Windex. Below the image, the text reads "What kind of materials are hazardous?" followed by a list of items: Antifreeze, Corrosive products, Deck stain, Pesticides, Flammable liquids, Oil-based paint, Oxidizers, Motor oil and filters, Antifreeze, Needles and sharps, Cell phones, Batteries, CFL lightbulbs, and "...". At the bottom, it says "For a full list of items go to www.WhereltShouldGo.com."

2015 Solid Waste Events for WDM Citizens

Annual Spring Cleanup is June 1–5 on your regular trash collection day

Don't miss this opportunity to dispose of items that don't fit in your garbage cart.

June 1 – 5	Annual Spring Cleanup – On your regular trash day. <i>See new details below!</i>
June 27	Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, City Hall, 8 a.m. to Noon
Sept. 12	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-Off and Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. to Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
Nov. 28	Yard Waste Pick-Up Ends
Dec. 28 – Jan. 8	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

Annual Spring Cleanup (June 1–5) has a new look this year

In order to reduce the amount of litter in our neighborhoods during the clean-up event, we've changed a few things so that it will be easier for you to keep your yard free of debris.

Garbage limit: You can set out as much as will fit in the bed of one pickup truck.

Weight limit: If it's reasonable that two people could lift an item, then it's accepted.

No bagged/boxed items: Since these items can be put in your garbage cart year-round or collected with a \$1 Extra Trash Sticker, these items will not be collected. This change will help us eliminate litter and the mess scavengers create in your neighborhood.

ACCEPTED ITEMS: Mattresses, couches, end tables, fans, lamps, grills (no propane)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: Appliances, building materials, concrete, tires, yard waste, household hazardous waste



Spring Cleanup is your opportunity to get rid of items that do not fit in your garbage cart. It is available to all West Des Moines residents who are eligible for City provided solid waste collection. Questions? Call WDM Public Works at 222-3480.

Our Public Works event was a Success!



The City of West Des Moines Public Works Department continued our popular yearly tradition of providing a free family event to celebrate National Public Works Week.

On May 21, crews brought large equipment to the Farmer's Market in Historic Valley Junction, and Public Works operators answered questions and assisted children of all ages as they explored the equipment and sat in the driver's seat of all kinds of vehicles.

Fun games such as traffic signal beanbag toss, miniature golf, boat races (using a straw!), traffic cone ring toss, along with free face painting and balloon artistry, helped encourage families to join the festivities and learn about Public Works.

West Des Moines' partners in solid waste collection, Metro Waste Authority and Waste Management, also attended the event to answer solid waste questions. Free handouts such as children's activity books, popcorn and information on the new rules for Spring Cleanup also were available.

Mark your calendar now for next year's event on Thursday, May 19, 2016!



Emerald Ash Borer found in West Des Moines

You've probably seen the news coverage that just three weeks after the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in far eastern Dallas County, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has announced two separate occurrences of the pest in Polk County.

Along with a tree on city property in Urbandale, officials have confirmed that an ash tree in the heart of West Des Moines is also infested with EAB. Both trees were spotted by vigilant arborists caring for neighboring trees.

Much like the infested Dallas County trees, the West Des Moines tree has declined to a point suggesting it has been under attack for several years. Although there are few public ash trees in the vicinity of the infestation, ash trees make up a very high percentage of trees on nearby private property.

In terms of EAB management, the City of West Des Moines has been operating under the assumption that the beetle was either here already or close enough to justify moving forward with our plan to protect close to 600 City ash trees.

Injection treatments of an insecticide solution containing emamectin benzoate was initiated in mid-May. Each treatment protects the tree from EAB for at least two years and possibly longer under lite pressure from the insect. The pesticide acts by killing larvae that have bur-

rowed into the tree or by killing adult ash borers feeding on leaves. All treated trees will be re-assessed prior to any future treatment.

Property owners with ash trees should soon decide on whether to treat their trees or have them removed. Trees provide numerous benefits, not only to a property owner, but to the community as well. Healthy, well-shaped and properly placed ash trees are justifiable candidates for treatment. Any homeowner who has lost a large canopied shade tree can attest to the energy savings it provided.

If you are not sure what type of tree you have, contact your local tree care professional or browse through the many tree identification sources online.

Ash trees have characteristics few other tree types have, including branches/twigs that line up opposite each other on the stem. Residents also should consult with local professionals to assess the health of their ash trees and whether or not they should proceed with treatment or removal.

For additional information, helpful links and an FAQ about Emerald Ash Borer, visit the Forestry section of the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov/EAB.



Temporary Special Census jobs still available!

The City of West Moines is still recruiting residents to help with our Special Census.

Temporary jobs are available for Census takers, office staff and supervisors. Visit our website at www.wdm.iowa.gov to fill out our online **Special Census Interest Form** and the **U.S. Census Bureau Application** (which you must print and drop off at City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines). Paper copies of both documents also are available at City Hall.

The City is contacting people now to schedule a job-related test to determine if applicants are qualified for a Census job. If selected, you will be required to attend a training class and then given a work assignment that lasts approximately 3 to 8 weeks.

Census workers typically are paid \$13 to \$17 per hour, plus mileage and paid training. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and willing to work a minimum of 20 hours per week when residents are home, usually during evenings and week-ends.

When Census workers knock on your door, please cooperate and answer their questions!

Census takers (called enumerators) will soon be going door-to-door in our neighborhoods to collect a few facts about each member of your household for our Special Census.

Why a Special Census?

If Census results show that our population has increased, we'll be eligible to receive additional funds for road construction and maintenance projects.

What questions will they ask?

Census workers will be asking questions such as the name, age, gender and relationship of each person in your household. They also will ask about race and Hispanic origin, and whether you own or rent your home or apartment. All Census workers will carry a U.S. Census Bureau photo ID badge.

Is my information confidential?

Yes! The information you share is confidential, and the law applies whether or not you are a U.S. citizen. No one will ever be asked for other identifying information, such as your Social Security number or specific checking account/financial information.

Renew your driver's license at ... the WDM Public Library!

The West Des Moines Public Library now has an Iowa DOT License and Identification kiosk on-site that will allow users to *renew* existing state licenses or identification cards during library hours. The kiosk is located in the Library Living Room (the former café space on the first floor).

Library Director Darryl Eschete says the kiosk is also able to take identification photos, and users have an opportunity to retake a photo (thank goodness!) if the first one isn't acceptable.

Eschete says he's heard the kiosk is much faster than visiting a renewal office in person, but there are some restrictions to the new service.

Iowans can renew their driver's license or identification card at a kiosk if:

- They have a valid Iowa driver's license or ID card (not a commercial driver's license);
- They are at least 18 but younger than 70 years old;
- Their license or ID card has not been expired for more than one year;
- It is less than 180 days to the renewal date on their current license or ID card;
- They are a U.S. Citizen; and
- They do not have medical or visual conditions that would impact their ability to drive.



The kiosk will issue a temporary document and the actual new license or identification card will be mailed to the user. The kiosk will accept credit or debit card payments but not cash.

Volunteer appreciation lunch

West Des Moines Human Services held a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, April 22, at the Nature Lodge in West Des Moines. Over 60 volunteers, staff and board members attended the event which featured a treasure theme. Mayor Steve Gaer welcomed volunteers and thanked everyone for the vital role they played in supporting our community.

A variety of door prizes were awarded including gift cards to The Cheesecake Factory, Jethro's BBQ, Tasty Tacos, Chicken Coop Sports Bar & Grill, Nan's Nummies, the General Store Eatery, Longest Yard Sports Grill and many others. Thanks to donations, every volunteer received a door prize!

Summer Food Service Program begins June 8

This summer, West Des Moines Community Schools, in conjunction with West Des Moines Human Services and West Des Moines Parks and Recreation, will again offer a free lunch to any child 18 years old or younger at American Legion Park at 301 Vine Street.



Lunch is offered Monday through Friday from June 8 through August 14 (excluding holidays).

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created to ensure children continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer months when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. SFSP helps children get the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow.

For more information or to find out if lunch is available in your neighborhood, please contact the WDM Schools Nutrition Department at 633-5085 or visit their website at www.wdmcs.org.

School supply donations needed

West Des Moines Human Services will be holding its annual school supply distribution for qualifying low-income households the week of August 10th. Last year, 374 children received backpacks and school supplies due to the generosity of the community.

Please consider donating supplies or making a cash contribution which allows items to be purchased in bulk. **Needed supplies include:** folders, notebooks, colored pencils, markers, crayons, calculators, supply boxes, glue, scissors, rulers, protractors, compasses, paper, pencils, erasers, pens, backpacks, etc.



Please drop off your donation to the Human Services office at 139 6th Street **by August 7**. Thank you for your support!

West Des Moines Human Services needs you!

West Des Moines Human Services is fortunate to have a dedicated team of 60 plus volunteers who assist on a weekly basis in the Clothing Closet, Food Pantry and at the front desk.

Some of these individuals have been with Human Services for many years, including Irene Reed, who has volunteered for 22 years! Volunteers are currently needed in



the Clothing Closet to accept, sort and straighten donations of clothing and housewares. Morning and afternoon shifts are available, Monday through Friday.

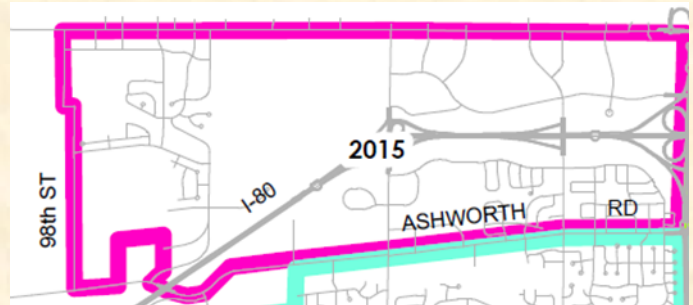
If you are interested in helping those in need in our community, please call 222-3663 to learn more about volunteer opportunities or visit our website at www.wdmhumanservices.com.



Construction Updates

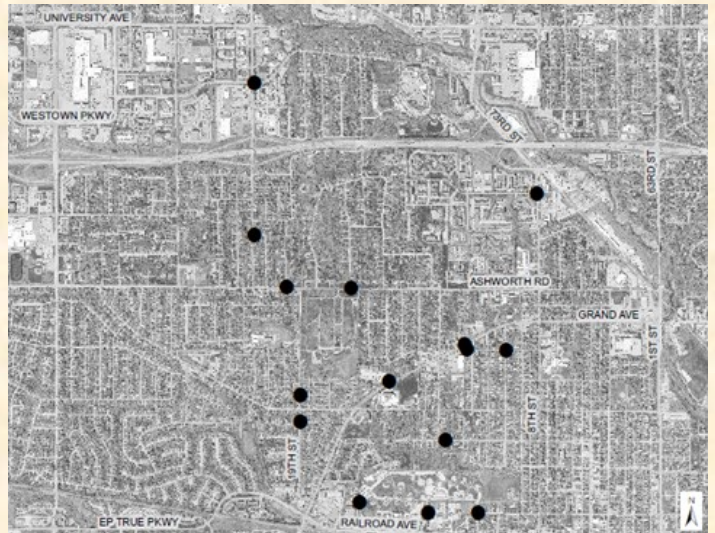
2015 Sidewalk Program

Notification letters were sent to affected property owners in May. Residents will have approximately 75 days to make the repairs or let the City perform the repair (in which case a property owner should figure \$12.50 per square foot for a 4-inch thick sidewalk and \$14.06 per square foot for a 6-inch thick sidewalk). The area of the program this year is primarily I-35 to 98th Street from University Avenue to Ashworth Road.



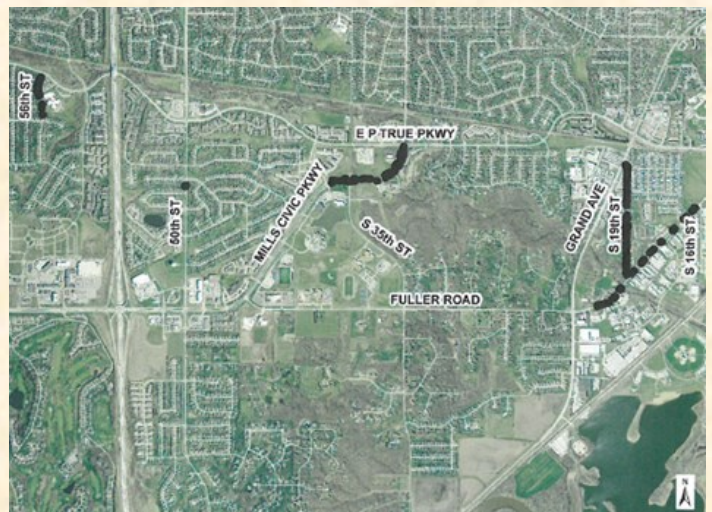
2012 Sidewalk Program - Phase 2

This project will be for the installation and/or replacement of approximately 5,500 square feet of sidewalk and 2,000 square feet of pedestrian ramps. The preconstruction meeting was on May 12.



2014 PCC Patching Project

The contractor has completed all locations except for the bridge approaches on Fuller Road that are nearly complete with turf restoration on the patches.



Construction Updates

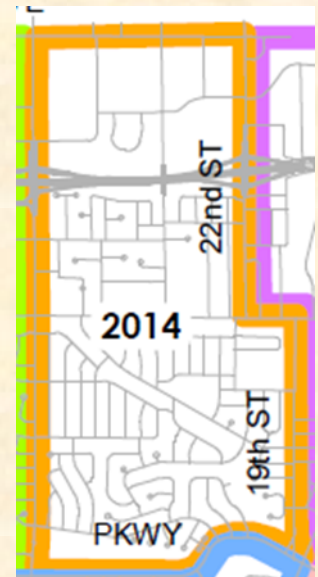
2014 PCC Reconstruction Project (Vine Street)

The section from 8th to 9th Street is closed and the contractor is starting work. This section will be reopened by July. Turf restoration will likely occur in the fall.



2014 Sidewalk Program

Staff reviewed the area in March 2015 based on the revised defect criteria and removed approximately 230 additional properties from the project. Those residents who were impacted by the review were notified the week of April 13th. The project has been reduced to 329 affected properties. To date, approximately 348 residents called in to request on-site meetings, ask for further explanation or disagree with the noted defects.



2015 HMA Resurfacing Project

The contractor has completed all concrete patching prior to the initiation of asphalt paving. They are working to pave the Woodland Ave / 12th Street segment (weather permitting).



Construction Updates

2015 PCC Reconstruction Project (2nd Street)

This project will be reconstructing 2nd Street from Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street. The contract has been let and awarded. Work should begin by the end of May/early June.



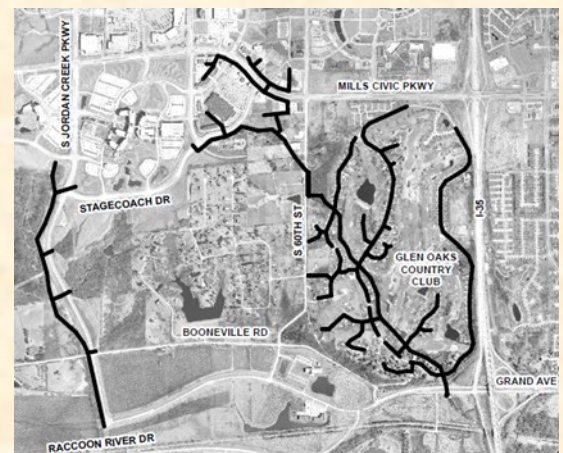
2015 Sewer Lining Program

The contract has been awarded and we're waiting for the contractor to begin work.



2015 Sewer Cleaning & Televising Program

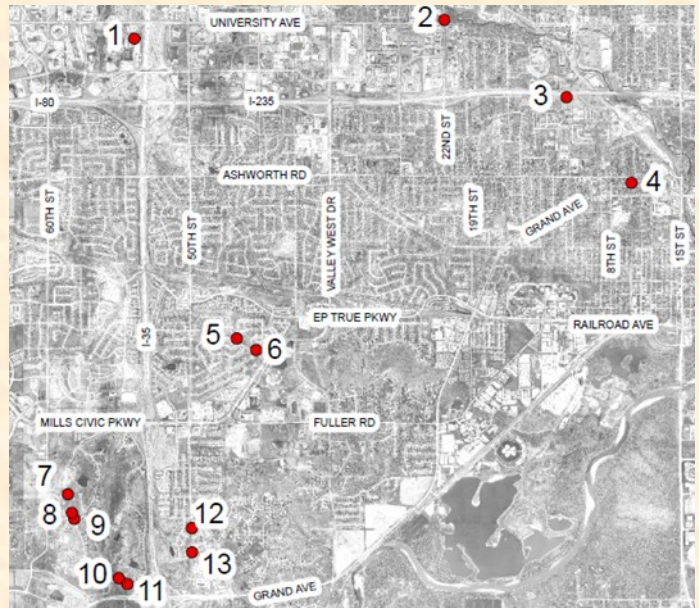
The contract has been awarded and we're waiting for the contractor to begin work.



Construction Updates

2015 Sewer Rehabilitation Program

This project will address 13 locations of necessary sanitary sewer repairs. The locations are indicated by the red dots on the vicinity map.



2015 Sump Pump Program

This project will install sump pump collector lines along Stonebridge Road, 49th Street and Elm Street. The project has been awarded and we're waiting for the contractor to begin work.



2015 Valley Junction Brick Paver Repair Program

This project will repair settlement issues with the brick pavers between the concrete sidewalks and the back of the curb. The preconstruction meeting was held on May 12th.