



September  
2015

## West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

**W**e've been working this summer with the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce to become a Home Base Iowa Community. If you aren't aware of this program, it's a great initiative that provides support for our veterans and returning military personnel as they transition back to civilian life.

Right now, we're seeking commitments from businesses who will pledge to hire one or more veterans by December 31, 2018.

We also want to work with businesses and organizations who are willing to support Home Base Iowa efforts with incentives that will help veterans feel welcome in our community, such as free housing closing costs to complimentary meals for service members and their families.

If you would like to support this effort, contact McKinlee Ritter in my office at 222-3598 or visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/homebaseiowa](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/homebaseiowa) to submit an electronic interest form. Major employers in the metro area currently serving as Home Base Iowa Businesses include Hy-Vee, Wells Fargo & Company, U.S. Bank, Principal Financial Group, Casey's General Store, Northwest Bank, UnityPoint Health and Mercy Health Network. For more details, see page 3.

### *Help us light up West Des Moines at Illumifest*

Rarely do I have an opportunity to talk about Cinderella in one of my columns. In fact, I think this is a first!

But now that I have your attention, I hope you can join us on Saturday, September 26, for Illumifest on the WDM City School Campus. Each year, our Parks and Recreation Department works with members of our community to bring you a fun family event right here by City Hall. Take a look at our schedule of events on Page 2 and see all the activities you can enjoy with the kids – including a special FREE outdoor showing of *Disney's Cinderella*.



Connect with us! [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov)



# Illumifest

a Fall Festival of light

**Saturday, September 26**  
**4 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
**West Des Moines City**  
**School Campus**  
**4200 Mills Civic Parkway**

Illumifest offers fun for all ages! Inflatables, games and a variety of food stands open at 4:00 p.m. and run throughout the evening. We hope you'll join us and have a great time at this family friendly event.

<b>Carnival &amp; Food Vendors Open</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Help us Light Up West Des Moines!</b></p>
<b>FREE Paddle Boat Rides</b>	<b>4 – 8 p.m.</b>	
<b>Chinese Association Displays and Exhibits</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>	
<b>FREE Lantern Making (limited to first 1,000 people)</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>	
<b>FREE Face Painting by the Library Teen Advisory Board in the WDM Library Community Room</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>	
<b>NEW Royal Promenade around the Pond</b> Registration fee required – includes an autograph booklet and “Royal Princess” photos!	<b>5 – 7 p.m.</b>	
<b>FREE Hot Air Balloon Rides</b> (A limited number of rides are available. Only two people allowed per ride. Riders must be 42” tall.)	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	
<b>FREE Outdoor Movie: Disney’s Cinderella</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	
<b>Fireworks Display over the Campus Pond!</b>	<b>9 p.m.</b>	



## West Des Moines needs local businesses to help the City become a Home Base Iowa Community

The City of West Des Moines is looking for businesses to participate in the Home Base Iowa program by providing incentives and job opportunities for transitioning military members and veterans returning to the area.

City officials hope to attract enough employers this fall to receive a Home Base Iowa designation from the state of Iowa that demonstrates the community's commitment to helping veterans return to civilian life and find jobs, pursue educational opportunities or continue service through the Guard or Reserves.

To become a Home Base Iowa Business, employers must pledge to hire a specific number of veterans by December 31, 2018, and commit to posting jobs on the Home Base Iowa website.

Businesses not in a position to commit to hiring additional employees are encouraged to partici-

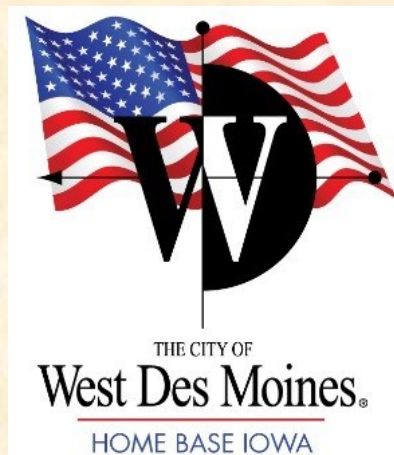
pate by offering incentives in the West Des Moines Community Welcome Package.

Mayor Steve Gaer said the City of West Des Moines has signed up as a Home Base Iowa employer, and he hopes other employers and businesses will support this important effort.

"This is a wonderful program that is making a difference for the men and women who have served our country," he said. "We need these highly skilled individuals in our workforce, so we're hoping West Des Moines businesses will take the pledge

and help us support our veterans."

For more information, contact McKinlee Ritter in the City Manager's Office at 222-3598 or visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/homebaseiowa](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/homebaseiowa) to submit an electronic interest form.



## Temporary Special Census jobs still available in West Des Moines!

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 weekends. Just complete an application which is available on our [website](#), pass a job-related test and attend training. Census workers typically are paid \$14 to \$18 per hour, plus mileage and paid training.

Applications may be mailed or dropped off at the WDM Special Census Office, 4900 University Avenue, Suite 120, WDM, IA 50266.

Questions? Contact the WDM Special Census Office at (515) 223-6245.

## Saturday, September 12, is our Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off & Paper Shredding Event

From 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines residents can recycle scrap metal and appliances at the Public Works facility located at 560 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street.



The City is partnering once again with H & W Recycling for this collection and personnel will be available to assist residents with unloading. If you have any questions, call the Public Works Department at 222-3480 or H & W Recycling at (641) 227-3200.

Items that will be accepted for **FREE** include:

Air conditioners (all sizes)	Riding lawn mowers	Stoves	Copiers
Water heaters	Push mowers	Washer/Dryers	Printers
Heat pumps	Bikes, tricycles	Humidifiers/Dehumidifiers	Fax machines
Furnaces	Garden tillers	Refrigerators (no food)	Phones
DVD players	Pool ladders	Deep freezers (no food)	Cell phones
Video gaming systems	Grills (no tanks)	Microwaves	Phone systems
Blu-ray players	Snow blowers	Dishwashers	Computer towers
Camcorders	Weed-eaters	Exercise equipment	Computer servers
Cameras	Pool heaters	Garbage disposals	VCRs
Stereo systems	Drills	Metal sinks	Metal cabinets
Speakers	Metal chairs/lawn furniture	Trash compactors	Saws
Calculators	Lead acid batteries	Garage doors & openers	Fans
Metal bed frames Vacuums	Blenders, mixers, toasters, general scrap metal	Metal bathtubs	Pots, pans, electric skillets

**Flat-screen TVs are accepted at NO charge.**

Tube-Type Televisions and Computer Monitors will be accepted **FOR A FEE:**

- TVs regular-sized - \$15/each
- Console TVs & Big Screen TVs - \$30/each
- Computer Monitors - \$15/each

**Items not accepted:**

Anything containing food, garbage, chemicals, paint, light bulbs, plastic or wood



In addition, secure paper shredding will also be available at the event. Residents are encouraged to come early with their old documents and watch a shredding truck destroy their paperwork. And don't worry about removing paper clips, staples, rubber bands, binder clips, hanging file folders, manila file folders or metal clips.

Note: 3-ring binders or plastics are not accepted.

***Come early because when the trucks are full, the service is over!***



Smoke alarms save lives, especially at night. This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, *“Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm,”* reminds us that half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. So it’s essential to protect yourself and your loved ones by having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

### Smoke Alarm Fast Facts:

- ◆ Three out of five home fire deaths in 2007-2011 were caused by fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- ◆ Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
- ◆ In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hardwired alarms operated 93% of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 79% of the time.
- ◆ When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead.
- ◆ An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, or when extra time is needed to awaken or assist others, both types of alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms are recommended.

### About Fire Prevention Week

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance in October every year since 1925.

### Mark your calendar!

The West Des Moines Fire Department’s Annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, October 10, from 7 – 11 a.m. at Station 17, 1401 Railroad Avenue.** Stop by and take a tour of the fire station, see the fire trucks, participate in fire prevention activities and join us for some pancakes and sausage!





## Children's free Summer Food Service Program a success



More than 5,300 meals were served between June 8 and August 14 at the Children's Free Summer Food Service Program at Legion Park in West Des Moines. West Des Moines Community Schools, in partnership with West Des Moines Human Services, offered a free lunch to any child 18 years or younger. 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.

## Thank you to our August school supply donors

West Des Moines Human Services would like to thank everyone who donated to our August school supply giveaway. Thanks to generous donations, more than 350 kids will be starting the school year with the supplies they need to succeed. A very special thank you goes to those who held donation drives including Mercy Medical Center, Merck, WDM Elks Lodge, Methodist West, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Valley United Methodist Church, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and WDM Christian Church.



## Volunteers needed to assist with our Clothing Closet

The Clothing Closet provides free clothing and housewares to eligible, low-income households on a monthly basis. We need volunteers to accept and sort donations of clothing and housewares, assist clients and keep our Clothing Closet clean and organized. Opportunities are available Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please call 222-3663 for more information.



Please join West Des Moines Human Services on Sunday, **September 27**, at Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar for the 6th Annual **Sunday Supper In Our Town** fundraising event to raise dollars to assist our low-income, elderly and disabled neighbors.

Share a delicious meal, great conversation and a wonderful evening of giving back to the community. Tickets are \$125 each.

Sponsorships also are available. Please call 222-3663 for more information or visit the City's [website](#).

# 2015 Solid Waste Events for WDM Citizens

**Mark your calendar now so you don't miss these important dates!**

March 30	Yard Waste Pick-Up begins on your normal trash collection day
April 11	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off & Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. – Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
April 18	Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., West Des Moines Public Works
May 21	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer's Market
June 1 – 5	Annual Spring Cleanup – On your regular trash day. <i>Watch for new details!</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, 560 S. 16th Street
Nov. 28	Yard Waste Pick-Up Ends
Dec. 28 – Jan. 8	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection



A number of Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events will be scheduled in our area by Metro Solid Waste Authority and will be posted on their website when available. Just visit [www.whereshouldgo.com](http://www.whereshouldgo.com).

Yard waste pick-up is available for all West Des Moines residents who are eligible for solid waste collection (single family homes up to and including 4-plex units).



THE CITY OF  
West Des Moines.

For more details, check the calendar on the City's website at [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) or call the Public Works Department at 222-3480.





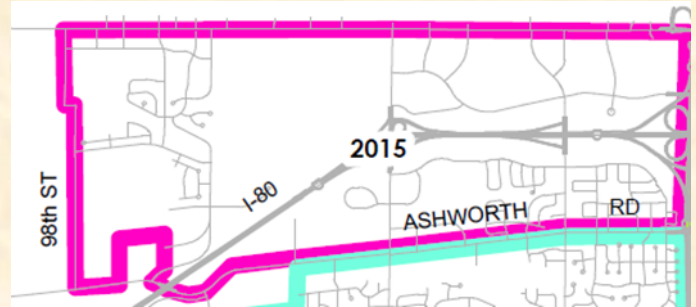
# Construction Updates

Click the orange cone icon to see updates anytime on our website!

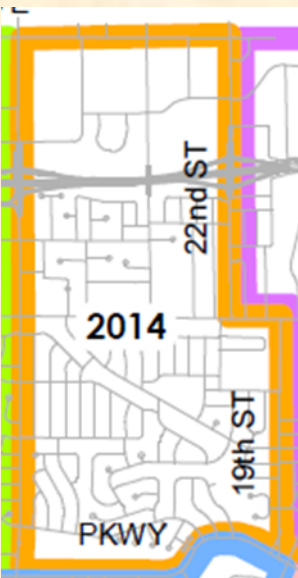


## 2015 Sidewalk Program

Residents were given approximately 75 days to make 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 98<sup>th</sup> Street from University Avenue to Ashworth Road. The project has a September 2 letting date and a mid-November completion date.



## 2014 Sidewalk Program



Staff sent approximately 833 notifications to property owners in the general area of 19th Street to Valley West Drive from E.P. True Parkway to University Avenue.

Staff reviewed the area in March 2015 based on the revised defect criteria and removed approximately 230 additional properties from the project. Those residents were notified the week of April 13. The project has been reduced to 329 affected properties. Assessment notifications have been sent to property owners. The project has been let and awarded with an anticipated start date of September 14.

## 2015 PCC Reconstruction Project (2<sup>nd</sup> Street) – Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street

This project will reconstruct 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street. The contractor has paved all three segments of 2nd Street and crews are working on pouring driveways in the 200 and 300 blocks. Cleanup is in progress and sod restoration is scheduled to be completed by mid-September.

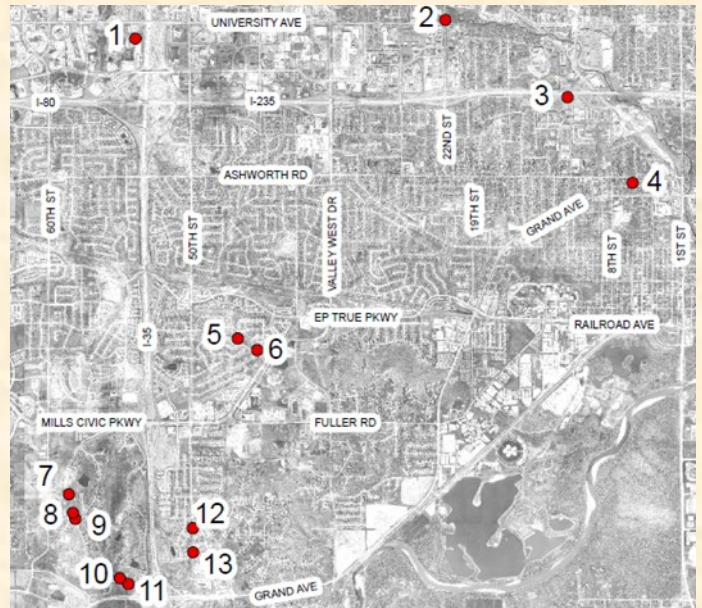




## Construction Updates

### 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. The contractor has completed eleven of the thirteen locations. Crews are currently working on 22nd Street.



### 2015 Sump Pump Program

This project will install sump pump collector lines along Stonebridge Road, 49th Street and Elm Street. The contractor has installed almost all the pipe and has poured all but one driveway. Cleanup is in progress with sod restoration scheduled to be completed by mid-September.



## Want to work with a great team?



The City of West Des Moines has a number of job openings, so if you're looking for a new job, make sure you visit the [Job Postings section](#) of our website. Open positions include Westcom Assistant Chief, a Secretary with Development/Engineering Services and a full-time Paramedic. A variety of seasonal and temporary positions also are available.