



October  
2015

## West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

Last month, I mentioned that we have been working with the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce to become a Home Base Iowa Community. I'm pleased to report that Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds joined Mayor Steve Gaer at the WDM Chamber's Bus Tour and Officials Cookout and announced that West Des Moines is now officially a Home Base Iowa Community.

If you missed my column, Home Base Iowa connects transitioning military members and veterans with career opportunities in Iowa companies. Businesses join the program by pledging to hire one or more veterans by December 31, 2018.

While we're still seeking commitments from employers, we also want to work with organizations willing to support Home Base Iowa efforts with incentives that will help veterans feel welcome in our community. 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.



### *Fire Prevention Week activities for you and your family*



Fire Prevention Week runs from October 4–10 this year. The WDM Fire Department will honor the memory of firefighters who have unselfishly served the City of West Des Moines by hosting its annual Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, October 4, at 1 p.m. at Station 18, 5025 Grand Avenue.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, including the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 10, see the article on page 3.

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



# Another great Illumifest

Perfect weather greeted West Des Moines residents of all ages who had a ball at Illumifest 2015! From balloon rides to an outing on a paddleboat, participants enjoyed an absolutely beautiful afternoon and evening on the City/School campus. Thanks to everyone who participated and made this special celebration *one to remember!*



*The Royal Promenade around the pond was a hit with all the beautiful little princesses who had their autograph books signed by royal characters from Little Princess Parties.*





# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

## OPEN HOUSE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Station 17 – 1401 Railroad Avenue



Adults \$5.00 – Children \$3.00  
3 years and under eat for free



Join us for fire safety activities, tours of the fire station and the Blank Fire Safety House, and see our special guest up close – the Mercy One helicopter!



Hear the **BEEP**  
where you **SLEEP**



**EVERY BEDROOM NEEDS A  
WORKING SMOKE ALARM.**

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT 4-10, 2015  
[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA.

## 2015 Compost It! season is coming to an end



As we gear up for the winter season, it seems there are always last minute yard projects to be done. The 2015 Compost It! Season will end on **Saturday, November 28**, so make sure you get the grass clippings from that final mowing and all those leaves in your yard waste cart or bags before it's too late!

## Fall/Winter Hours for Metro Hazardous Waste

The Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-off location at 1105 Prairie Drive SW in Bondurant has switched to fall/winter hours. The facility will be open from 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) every **first and third Saturday** of the month from September through May.

For more information on the Compost It! Program or Metro Hazardous Waste, visit [www.mwatoday.com](http://www.mwatoday.com) or call (515) 244-0021.

## Attention all little ghosts and goblins



**Beggar's night in West Des Moines will be held on Friday, October 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Have a safe and fun Halloween!**

## 2015 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, Human Services provides necessary assistance to low-income, elderly and disabled individuals in their service area. Many of the households who receive services 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 directly to the family or you may deliver them 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 Toys-For-Tots program. Toys-For-Tots 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.

To learn more, contact Mindy Hotovec at 222-3663 or [Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov](mailto:Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov). Information also is available on the [Holiday Giving Opportunities](#) section of our website.

## Clothing closet needs donations for fall and winter



THE CITY OF  
West Des Moines

With the change of seasons, the Clothing Closet at West Des Moines Human Services is in need of **fall and winter clothing and shoes**.

In addition, donations of small household items are also needed including **towels, blankets, sheets and kitchen items**.

Items in the Clothing Closet are available to qualifying, low-income households at no charge. Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 139 6<sup>th</sup> Street in West Des Moines. Donation receipts are available.

Thank you for your support!

## Upcoming Assistance Programs at West Des Moines Human Services

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 household's utility vendor. To be eligible, applicants must have an income that is 175% or below 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 must 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) A copy of your most recent heating/electric bill.

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

### Weatherization Program

Low income homeowners can apply for weatherization to help reduce their energy costs. An individual's household income must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to be eligible.

Families who have been approved for LIHEAP may also be approved to receive weatherization services. An eligibility priority list is compiled from applications and services are provided based on that list. Services include energy audits 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.

This assistance help is provided at no cost. The weatherization work is paid for with federal, state and utility funds and will help to lower heating, cooling and electrical costs.

### Embrace Iowa

Embrace Iowa is an assistance program offered through The Des Moines Register that is funded by donations from local businesses and residents. The assistance consists of cash grants to households experiencing an emergency or hardship who need 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 these programs or would like to apply, please contact WDM Human Services at 222-3660 or visit our [website](#).**



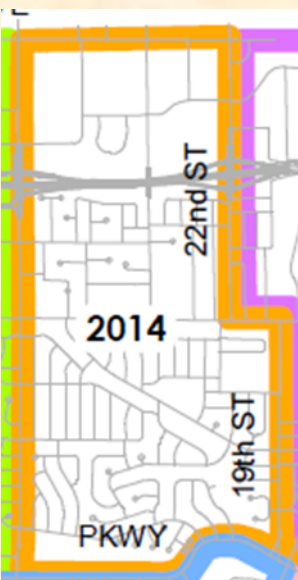
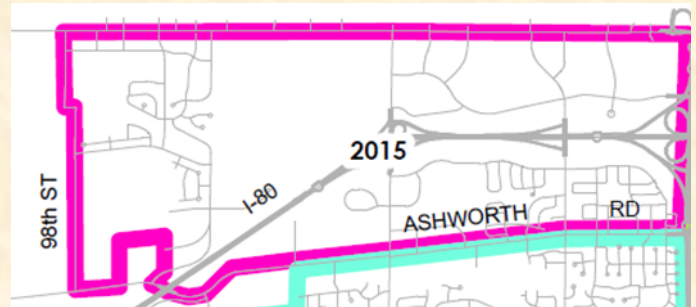
## Construction Updates

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



### 2015 Sidewalk Program

The area of the program this year is primarily I-35 to 98th Street from University Ave. to Ashworth Road. 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 project has been awarded and a mid-November completion date has been set. Staff has received 188 calls about the program from property owners .



### 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 now been reduced to 329 affected properties and assessment notifications have been sent to property owners. To date, 446 residents have called in to request on-site meetings, further explanation or disagree with the noted defects. The project has been let and awarded.

### 2015 PCC Reconstruction Project (2nd Street) – Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street

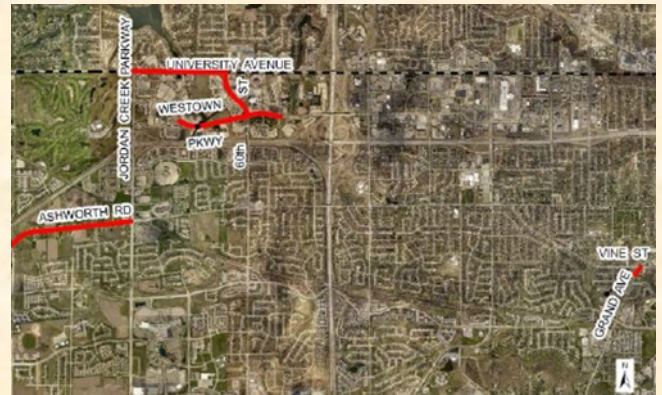
This project will reconstruct 2nd Street from Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street. The contractor is finishing up a few minor items including sod restoration.



# Construction Updates

## 2015 PCC Patching Program

This project will perform concrete patching on Westtown Parkway, 60th Street, University Avenue, Ashworth Road and a few other locations within the City. The contractor is currently working on Westtown Parkway, and they will be moving to night and day work on University Avenue within the next couple of weeks.



## 2015 Sewer Rehabilitation Program

This project will address 13 locations of necessary sanitary sewer repairs indicated by the red dots on the vicinity map. The contractor has now completed all 13 locations and is working on some restoration issues.



## 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. Sod is down and it's being watered.

