



November
2015

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

With winter fast approaching, our Public Works crews were busy this past month participating in training exercises and competing in the statewide **Snow Rodeo** activities that were held this year in West Des Moines. Equipment operators from all over the state took advantage of extra training which helps ensure crews are able to clear streets of snow and ice safely and efficiently.

Congratulations to our operators who finished in the top three in each category of the Rodeo: Nathan Headley and Laramie Sandbulte, Kevin Hershberger and Brian Crnkovich, Trevor Bindel, Mike Hiatt and Kevin Hershberger. This year's competition also included some special guests from the media who stopped by to test their skills behind the wheel. To see more, go to page 3.

Keep your family safe from carbon monoxide poisoning this winter

As temperatures dip and we begin to use our furnaces, don't forget about the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Make sure you protect your family by having CO alarms as well as smoke alarms. For more information, see page 2.

The Winter/Spring issue of WDM Magazine

The latest issue of WDM magazine features a beautiful winter cover photograph taken by Jason Floren that was the Best of Show winner in our "Eye on West Des Moines Photo Contest." You'll find other photographs as well as useful information about Library and Parks & Recreation programs, our new HAWK pedestrian traffic signal, winter yard waste collection details, and much, much more.



And finally, City Hall and most city offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27, for Thanksgiving. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Connect with us! www.wdm.iowa.gov



Make sure you have a carbon monoxide alarm

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide or CO is often called the “Invisible Killer” because it's a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental non-fire related CO poisoning associated with consumer products, such as generators, and faulty or improperly used or incorrectly vented fuel-burning appliances (furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces).

Know the symptoms of CO poisoning

Because CO is odorless, colorless and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not know that they are being exposed. Initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever):

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimately, death



Examples of two different carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.

Learn what you can do to protect your family from the dangers of CO

- ◆ Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
- ◆ CO alarms should be installed on every level of the home outside each separate sleeping area.
- ◆ Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- ◆ Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- ◆ Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and debris.
- ◆ Remove vehicles from the garage immediately after starting.
- ◆ Test CO alarms at least once a month.



If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors by an open window or near an open door. Make sure *everyone* in the home (including pets) get to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.

2015 APWA Operator Training and Rodeo Event

The City of West Des Moines hosted the annual Operator Training and Iowa State Snow Plow Rodeo event on September 29 – October 1. Agencies from all over the state sent participants to take advantage of either backhoe or snow plow operator training, as well as engage in competition during the Rodeo event. Competitions are a great way for public works operators to enhance their skills and share their knowledge and experiences, which can benefit you the public during winter storm operations!

This year, the Rodeo featured three different courses: a loader course, a skid steer course and a snow plow course. Operators from WDM Public Works finished in the top three in each category:

Snow Plow Course (Two-person teams)

- 1st Place – Nathan Headley and Laramie Sandbulte
- 2nd Place – Kevin Hershberger and Brian Crnkovich

Skid Steer Course

- 1st Place – Trevor Bindel
- 3rd Place – Mike Hiatt

Loader Course

- 3rd Place – Kevin Hershberger

Local television celebrities were invited to take a turn on the snow plow course to get a first-hand look at the challenges faced by snow plow operators. Ed Wilson from Channel 13 took home the top spot among the celebrities.



Hats off to WHO's Ed Wilson, Local 5's Brad Edwards and KCCI's Frank Scaglione for driving a snow plow through our obstacle course at our Snow Plow Rodeo. We hope to see you next year!





Yard waste pick-up ends on Saturday, Nov. 28

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

No doubt about it: Winter is on its way!

Did you know that the City of West Des Moines has more than 770 lane miles of streets? In order to keep you safe, we take a very serious approach to snow and ice control.

Priority of Snow Removal

- #1 – Major Arterial Streets – The major street network must be kept open to provide a continual transportation system for police, fire and rescue squads.
- #2 – Collector Streets
- #3 – Residential Streets and Public Sidewalks
- #4 – Cul-de-sacs, Alleys and City trails

Plan Now for a Parking Ban

To accomplish snow removal, a Snow Emergency Parking Ban may be implemented by the Public Works Department. Vehicles must be removed from all City Streets, alleys and City-owned parking areas when the Snow Emergency Parking Ban is in effect. Vehicles parked in these areas are subject to being towed and/or ticketed (\$50).

Make a plan now for when the Emergency Parking Ban is in effect and parking is not allowed!



This car was ticketed!

How do I know when the Snow Emergency Parking Ban is in effect?



Call the snow hotline—2730-SNO (273-0766)



Check the home page of the WDM website: www.wdm.iowa.gov



“Like” the [City of WDM Manager’s Office](#) on Facebook



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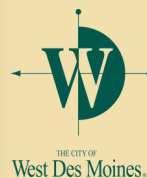
An update on the Emerald Ash Borer

By now, most everyone knows the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed last year in a residential ash tree in West Des Moines. Fortunately, the City had plans in place to chemically treat public ash trees. Treatment of 710 trees, approximately 76% of all ash trees on city-owned property, was initiated in May and completed in late July.

City staff injected a 4 percent solution of emamectin benzoate, which has been proven to be nearly 100 percent effective at killing EAB larvae and adult beetles over the course of two years. The treated trees will be re-evaluated in 2017 to determine whether or not it makes sense to treat them again.

The effects of an EAB infestation start out slowly. The level of damage to untreated trees will likely be more advanced two years from now, but history shows that 4 years from now, EAB populations will finally reach a tipping point. Trees that were perfectly healthy one year may die the following year. Within 6 to 10 years, nearly all *untreated* ash trees will be killed by EAB.

Private property owners are urged not to become complacent. If you have an ash tree on your property, you are encouraged to make plans to begin treatment in the spring of 2016 or plan to remove the tree in the near future. Be sure to get multiple prices from reputable local tree companies prior to any tree treatment or removal.



For more information, contact John Olds, Urban Forestry Supervisor, at 222-3417 or email him at john.olds@wdm.iowa.gov.

Check out the City's EAB webpage at www.wdm.iowa.gov/EAB

Sunday Supper in our Town was a success

West Des Moines Human Services held its 6th annual *Sunday Supper In Our Town* fundraising benefit on September 27 at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar in West Des Moines. More than 125 guests attended the dinner and raised more than \$50,000 to support programs for low-income, elderly and disabled residents in the western suburbs.

Presenting sponsors were Atlantic Coca Cola Bottling, Sammons Financial Group and UnityPoint Health.

Other sponsors included Athene, American Equity, Ahlers & Cooney P.C., Davis Brown Law, Northwest Bank, R&R Realty Group, Frank Berlin & Associates, LaMarca Law Group, Steve & Sally Gaer, Russ & Alana Trimble, West Bank, Bankers Trust, UTC Aerospace Systems, Jim & Louisa Sandager, Stivers Ford Lincoln, 3E Electrical Engineering, Valley Eye Clinic, Foth, HDR Inc., HR Green, Foster Group, Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance, Tom & Tina Hadden, Richard & Linda Hurd, Dennis & Wendy Ogden, and Wright Tree Service.



Staff member Mindy Hotovec, Committee Chair Mary Bernabe & Human Services Director Althea Holcomb welcome guests to an evening of fun and fellowship.

Thank you for helping us support our community!

Clothing closet needs your 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**.



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 6th Street in West Des Moines. Donation receipts are available. Thank you for your support!

Low income energy assistance program

Applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the 2015-2016 program year will be taken by the WDM Human Services office beginning November 1, 2015, and continuing through April 30, 2016.

The LIHEAP program assists qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters by paying a portion of their primary heating costs. This program is not designed to pay a household's total energy costs.

WDM Human Services is located at 139 6th St. Applications will be accepted on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon). For better service, applicants are encouraged to schedule an appointment in advance by calling **(515) 222-3660**. Walk-ins will be accepted during application hours.



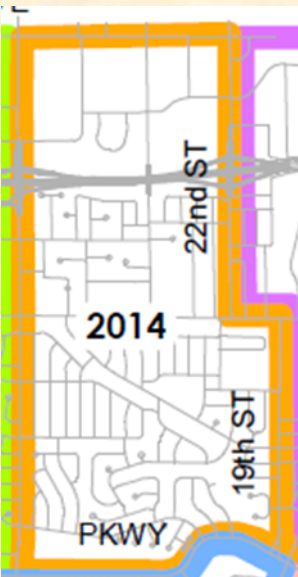
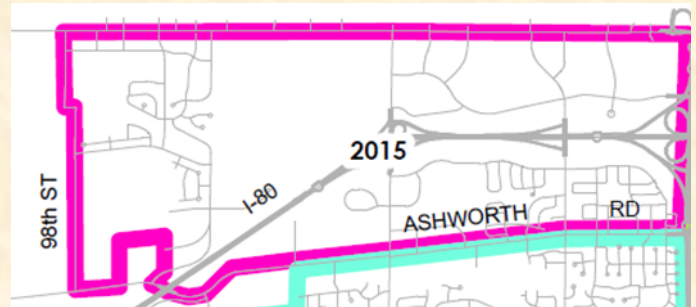
Construction Updates

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 193 calls about the program from property owners. The contractor is approximately 30% complete with the project.



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 the project has now been reduced to 329 affected properties. The contractor is approximately 30% complete with the project.

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

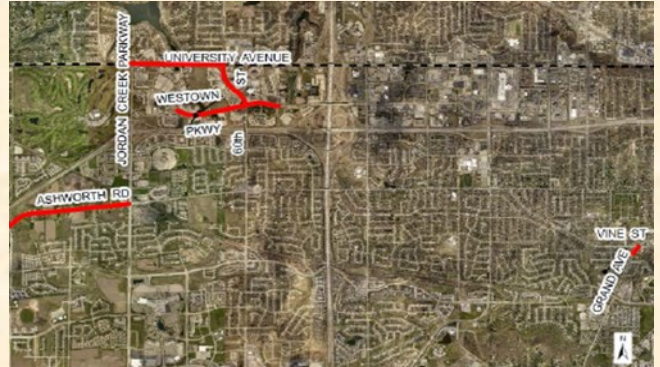
This project will reconstruct 2nd Street from Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street. Sod restoration has been completed and the contractor is finishing up a few minor items.



Construction Updates

2015 PCC Patching Program

This project involves concrete patching on Westtown Parkway, 60th Street, University Avenue, Ashworth Road and a few other locations within the City. The contractor should finish up working on University Avenue soon. In addition, some partial depth patches will be placed on Westtown Parkway adjacent to Hy-Vee corporate headquarters.



West Des Moines Receives Dallas County Foundation Grant for New Pedestrian Signal

Traffic Engineer Jim Dickinson applied for and received a grant from the Dallas County Foundation for a new pedestrian signal crossing at the intersection of 65th & Ashworth Road.

The new signal crossing is a **HAWK** pedestrian signal, which stands for **H**igh-intensity **A**ctivated cross**W**alk beacon.

The signal remains dark for traffic until a pedestrian pushes the button at the crossing. Once the button is pressed, the signal changes to: 1.) a flashing yellow light; 2.) a steady yellow light; and 3.) a solid red light. The red signal stops traffic and allows pedestrians to safely cross the street.



Jim Dickinson holds a \$5,000 check from the Dallas County Foundation for the new HAWK pedestrian signal.