



April
2016

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

West Des Moines staff are constantly working to deliver services as efficiently and effectively as possible for our residents. I recently announced a new change that we think will help us serve you better.

In just the last few days, code enforcement responsibilities have moved from the Police Department to Public Works, and effective with this move, Code Enforcement will be called *Community Compliance*. Staff will continue to handle common code enforcement issues such as junk cars, weeds and grass over 10 inches or more, and snow and ice removal from sidewalks. We think this move makes sense because it complements the work Public Works employees do every day in the public right-of-way when they are out working on streets, sidewalks and potholes. If you have a nuisance call to report, please contact Public Works at 222-3480 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. You can also report a violation by visiting our [Online Service Desk](#) link at the top of our website.

West Des Moines parks are now tobacco and nicotine free

We also are pleased to provide tobacco and nicotine-free parks for our residents. Since our parks were created for healthy recreation and play, making them tobacco-free will reduce the exposure children and teenagers experience from tobacco. We'll also have the benefit of cleaner parks and we'll be on the same page with the West Des Moines school system.

For more information, please visit our website and read answers to [frequently asked questions](#).



Connect with us!

www.wdm.iowa.gov



Let us help you dispose of unused or expired drugs

If you need to dispose of unused or expired medication, please note that we have two excellent chances for you to remove these items safely from your home or apartment!

On **Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, you can drop off unused or expired medication to the West Des Moines Police Department at 250 Mills Civic Parkway as part of the National Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Drug Take-Back Program.

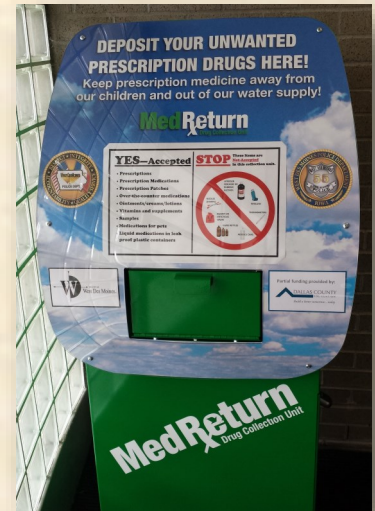
Just drive up and hand your medications to one of the officers. You don't even have to get out of your vehicle. It's fast, easy and safe! For more information, contact Officer Jeff Hartshorn at jeff.hartshorn@wdm.iowa.gov or call him at 222-3333.

The West Des Moines Police Department also has a **MedReturn box** located at the Police Department inside the first set of doors immediately to your left. These doors are open 24 hours a

day for your convenience. Items that are **accepted** in the MedReturn box include prescriptions, prescription patches, over-the-counter medications, ointments, creams and lotions, vitamins and supplements, medications for pets, and liquid medication in leak proof plastic containers.

Items **not accepted** include inhalers, needles (sharps), glass bottles, aerosol cans, thermometers, bloody or infectious waste, hydrogen peroxide and rubbing alcohol.

Funding for this was made possible in part through the Dallas County Foundation. For more information, call 222-3320.



Residential Scrap Tire Collection

Saturday, April 16, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Not sure what to do with those old tires collecting dust in your garage?

This event is a great opportunity for residents to dispose of old car and truck tires. Each household may drop off a maximum of five tires. Rims must be removed.

Tires NOT accepted at this event include:
Solid tires (lawnmower, forklift or golf cart tires)
Tires generated by businesses
Farm or tractor tires or bicycle tires

Rock the Block needs volunteers for Valley Junction!



Habitat for Humanity & Historic Valley Junction are teaming up for four days (**April 27 – 30**) to revitalize the Valley Junction District & Neighborhood!

Join the businesses, friends and families of Valley Junction for a memorable experience that is sure to include painting, planting, hammering, digging and laughter.

Habitat for Humanity will be working on 20 homes in Valley Junction over this four-day event. Approximately 150 volunteers are needed each day.

If you would like to volunteer your time to assist families in this area, just [sign up here](#) and select the date and shift that works for you.

For more information, contact Katie Funk at events@valleyjunction.com or Shelby Valspar with Habitat for Humanity at svraspier@gdmhabitat.org.

If you are unable to volunteer your time, please consider donating food or drinks for volunteers or gifts for the homeowners.

WDM Fire Department receives Accredited Agency Status

The West Des Moines Fire Department recently received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's accreditation program.

West Des Moines Fire is one of over 200 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. Of the approximately 731 fire departments in the state of Iowa, only four are internationally accredited. West Des Moines Fire has held accredited status since 2006 and was the first accredited agency in the state.

Fire Chief Craig Leu said the agency's achievement

shows a commitment of our elected officials, leadership and employees to strive for continual improvement.

"We believe that by having our system and process's evaluat-

ed by experts from

across the country, we

can strive to provide

the best services possible

to the citizens we protect."

Chief Leu also said that the process

of accreditation

"allows our organization to be proactive and plan for the future

of our growing city." The accreditation process was managed by Deputy Chief Jack Bengé and involved all levels of the organization and other City departments. Accreditation status is good through 2021 and will be monitored by CFAI with yearly updates.



Chief Craig Leu holds the CFAI Award!

Earth Day Family Fun Fair

Saturday, April 23
West Des Moines City Hall Pond
9 a.m. to 12:00 (noon)
Cost: Free!

Join us for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, EARTH-themed arts and crafts and games! This event will be educational and fun for the family with activities for all ages. In case of inclement weather, we will move indoors.



Come help us celebrate the EARTH, and remember, "A Clean Earth is a Happy Earth."

Mark your calendar for Police Week!



On Wednesday, May 18, the West Des Moines Police Department will hold its annual Police Week activities from 5 – 8 p.m.

This event features activities and fun for all

ages including free food, child bicycle helmets,

games, emergency vehicle displays, K-9 demonstrations and much more.

All activities will be held at the Police Department at 250 Mills Civic Parkway.

For more information, contact Officer Jeff Harts-horn at 222-3333. We'll see you there!

Construction Season is almost upon us



Construction season is just around the corner as the weather starts to warm up and conditions improve for construction crews. Stay tuned for updates on major projects in the coming months.

2015 Channel Repair Program

Project Status: Work will include bank repair and stabilization of Jordan Creek adjacent to the Jordan Creek Trail at two locations between 50th Street and 60th Street. The contractor has started work on the project, and this will affect the Jordan Creek Trail from I-35 to 50th Street and Prairie View Drive to 56th Street. It is anticipated the work on this portion will last approximately one month pending weather.

Clothing Closet needs spring and summer clothing!

With the change of seasons, the Clothing Closet is in need of new or gently used spring and summer clothing and shoes.

The Closet also needs small household items including towels, blankets, sheets and kitchen items.

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. Please call 222-3663 if you have any questions.



WDM Human Services Garden Program

Income-eligible residents of West Des Moines have the opportunity to grow their own vegetable and flower gardens with the help of the West Des Moines Human Services Garden Program.

From April 18 through May 31, Human Services will partner with the Normandy Plaza Hy-Vee at Railroad and Grand Avenue to offer qualifying households a \$25 voucher to purchase vegetable and flower starter plants. Garden tilling is also available. Please call 222- 3660 for office hours or to learn more.



Evening hours for the food pantry & clothing closet

West Des Moines Human Services now offers evening hours for its Food Pantry and Clothing Closet from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Volunteers are needed to assist in these areas. Donations may also be dropped off at the southeast corner of the building during these hours. Please call 222-3660 for more information.

Saturday, April 9, from 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon)

Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off & Secure Paper Shredding

This event is a great opportunity to recycle unwanted items!
 West Des Moines residents may bring their scrap appliances or metal
 to the gated area at the Public Works facility located at 560 S. 16th Street.

Items that will be accepted for free include:

Air Conditioners	Dishwashers	Ice Makers	Saws
Batteries, Lead Acid	Dryers	Metal—most anything	Speakers
Blenders/mixers/toasters	DVD players	Metal shelving	Stereo Systems
Calculators	Exercise Equipment	Microwaves	Stoves
Cameras, Camcorders	Fans	Mowers—Riding	Vacuums
Cell Phones	Fax Machines	Mowers—Walk Behind	VCRs
Chillers	Freezers (no food)	Phones	Video Game Systems
Computer Towers, Servers	Furnaces	Pots, Pans, Electric Skillets	Washers
Condenser Units	Garage Doors & Openers	Printers	Water Coolers
Copiers	General Scrap Metal	Refrigeration Units	Water Heaters
Dehumidifiers	Humidifiers	Rooftop AC Units	Water Softeners (no salt)

These items will NOT be accepted:

Anything with food in it	Garbage	Paint	Wood
Chemicals	Light Bulbs	Plastics	

Televisions and computer monitors are accepted for a fee (Cash or Check only):

TVs (regular-sized) and Computer Monitor - \$15.00 each

Console and Big Screen TVs - \$30.00 each



Secure paper shredding is an added service available to West Des Moines residents during this event! You are encouraged to bring old documents and watch a shredding truck destroy your paperwork. No prep needed – leave any paper clips, staples, rubber bands, binder/metal clips, hanging file folders or manila file folders with your documents. No 3-ring binders or plastic allowed.

H&W Recycling is partnering with the City of West Des Moines for this collection event.

Call the Public Works Department at 222-3480 with any questions.

Yard waste collection is here!

Yard waste collection runs weekly from March 28 through December 2, 2016. Residents can dispose of yard waste right from the curb through Metro Waste Authority's Compost It! program. Curbside pickup is on your garbage day with two easy options:



1. Bags & Stickers

Compost It! Bags

The cost of this bag covers the cost of collection. No sticker is required. Do not exceed 40 lbs. per bag.

Store-brand Bag + Compost It! Sticker

A Compost It! sticker must be attached to a generic bag. The sticker cost covers the cost of collection. It's a good idea to face the sticker toward the street so the hauler can see it.



Compost It! Sticker + Brush Bundles

Attach a Compost It! sticker to each brush bundle and place it next to carts or bags. Bundles cannot exceed 18 inches in diameter or four feet in length.

2. Cart

A Compost It! cart is on wheels, just like your Curb It! cart, making it a convenient alternative to yard waste bags. Simply wheel it to the curb on garbage day during Compost It! season. The 96-gallon cart can hold the equivalent of three yard waste bags, but you can always use the Bags & Sticker program if your yard waste exceeds the cart's capacity.

Purchase Bags, Stickers & Cart Subscriptions

The cost of the Compost It! bag, sticker and annual cart subscription covers the cost of collection and processing of the material.

Compost It! Bags	\$8.00 for a bundle of five (\$1.60 per bag). Sold at most grocery and hardware stores.
Compost It! Stickers	\$1.25 per sticker. Sold at most grocery and hardware stores.
Cart	\$105 annual subscription; \$1 credit card transaction fee, one-time cart purchase \$60 (\$80 with delivery). To enroll, call 222-3480 or renew at www.WherItShouldGo.com/cartrenewal .

For more information including what is accepted and what is not accepted, call (515) 244-0021 or visit www.WherItShouldGo.com.

2016 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

***Annual Spring Cleanup is June 6 – 10
on your regular trash collection day!***

March 28	Yard Waste Pick-up begins on your normal trash collection day
April 9	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off & Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. – 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Works
April 16	Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., West Des Moines Public Works
May 19	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer’s Market
June 6 – 10	Annual Spring Cleanup – on your regular trash day. Watch for details!
September 10	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off and Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. to Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
December 2	Yard Waste Pick-up Ends
January 2–13, 2017	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

Household Hazardous waste may be disposed of at the Metro Northwest Transfer Station on the 2nd Saturday, March through December, from 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon).

Visit www.whereshouldgo.com for more information.



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

For more details, check the [calendar](#) on the City’s website or call the Public Works Department at 222–3480.