



July
2016

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

Summer is off to a great start in West Des Moines with all the Independence Day activities we have planned for you! Please make sure you read pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter to find out about our parade on Sunday and the fireworks display that occurs at dusk on Monday, July 4, over Blue Heron Lake in Raccoon River Park.

Make sure you give yourself adequate time to drive out to the park because traffic congestion will occur given the large crowd that arrives every year to watch the fireworks. It's also a good idea to bring insect repellent and dress appropriately (long sleeves and pants) so that you're protected as much as possible from mosquitoes. This is particularly important for kids, so make sure you prepare so you can enjoy a wonderful evening outdoors.

And remember, per West Des Moines City Code 5-2-14, the possession, use or exploding of fireworks is prohibited. This law is in place for your safety because we want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

Our Community Survey is under way

If you receive a phone call or an email from ETC Institute asking you to participate in a survey about the services your City government provides, I hope you'll take the time to answer questions and let us know how we're doing. We've conducted this survey periodically for several years, and the information we gather from our residents is extremely valuable to us. All your responses are confidential, and once the results are compiled, we'll share them with the City Council and post them on our website. What you think is important to us, so thank you in advance for taking the time to let us know how we're doing!



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What you need to know to enjoy Independence Day Celebrations in West Des Moines!

Sunday, July 3

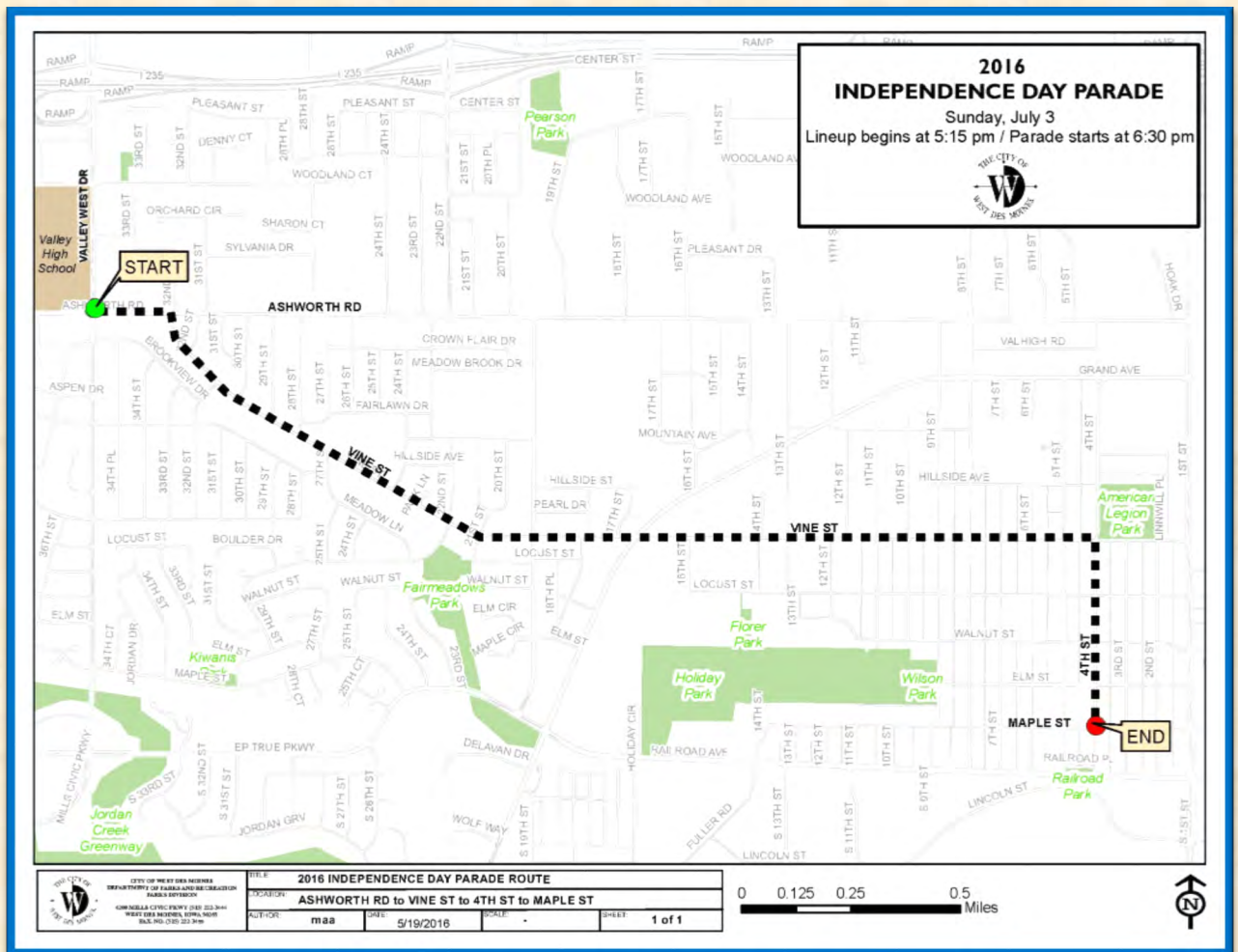
Parade:

Our Independence Day Parade will start at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 3!**

This year's route begins at the corner of Valley West Drive (35th Street) and Ashworth Road, goes east on Ashworth, turns south on Vine Street and follows Vine to 4th Street where it turns south and ends at Maple Street.

All Iowa Bash: Join the fun at a revamped celebration of the United States and all things IOWA!

This evening event will feature live music, food and fun for the entire family. The celebration will be held at Railroad Park in the 100 block of 5th Street after the West Des Moines Independence Day parade.





What you need to know to enjoy Independence Day Celebrations in West Des Moines!

Monday, July 4

Holiday Classic Horseshoe Tourney: 9 a.m. starting time at Holiday Park, 1701 Railroad Avenue. This activity is sponsored by the WDM Horseshoe Pitchers Association. Call 681-1937 for more information.

July 4th Aquatic Center Special: \$3 admission per person at both WDM Aquatic Centers (Valley View and Holiday Park), open from 12:00 (noon) to 6 p.m.

WDM Community Band: Concert starts at 7 p.m. by the Coneflower Shelters in Raccoon River Park, 2500 Grand Avenue. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy some patriotic favorites.

Fireworks will start at dusk over Blue Heron Lake in Raccoon River Park!

Although the City sprays the park for insects before the holiday, it's not always effective in eliminating pests from all areas of the park. Your best defense is bug spray with DEET and long-sleeved shirts and pants.

Please Note: It is illegal for any person to use explosive materials and fireworks within the City of West Des Moines without a permit.



Things to remember about summer heat



Officials from the Polk County Health Department want to remind everyone that children and animals should *never* be

left alone in a vehicle, even if the windows are down. It doesn't have to be hot outside for it to be dangerous to leave kids or pets unattended in a vehicle.

Children are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke (and even death) because their bodies generate more heat due to their size. Kids also don't have the ability to sweat like adults to cool themselves down. Dogs and cats also can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heat stroke or suffocation from being left in a hot vehicle (and again, that's even with the windows down).

The Polk County Health Department, the National Weather Service and Polk County Emergency Management would like to remind you to:

- ◆ Never leave children or animals alone in or around cars, not even for a minute. If you see children or an animal in a hot vehicle, call 911 immediately.
- ◆ Put something in the backseat that you will need such as a cell phone, purse, shoe or an employee ID so you have to get that item every time you park.
- ◆ Keep vehicles locked and keep car keys and garage door openers out of reach of children.
- ◆ Use drive-thru services when running errands and pay for gas at the pump.

For additional extreme heat information, please visit the [Polk County Health Department website](#).

Independence Day Reminders!



City Hall, City Offices and garbage collection

City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Monday, July 4.

Recycling, yard waste and garbage will not be collected on Monday, July 4, in recognition of Independence Day. Regular collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week, with Friday collection delayed to Saturday.

Metro Waste Authority Holiday Hours

All facilities will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Some facilities will be open for extended hours the Saturday after the holiday.

A listing of the hours can be found on the [Metro Waste Authority](http://www.MetroWasteAuthority.com) website. For more information, visit www.WhereltShouldGo.com or call 244-0021.



Dart Schedule

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) will not operate bus service on Monday, July 4. Service will resume on Tuesday, July 5.

DART's administrative offices also will be closed on Monday. Questions? Please call DART at 283-8100.

2016 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

March 28	Yard Waste Pick-up begins on your normal trash collection day
September 10	Scrap Appliance and Metal Drop-off 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

West Des Moines will host three kids triathlons in July!

The City of West Des Moines will be hosting three kids triathlons in **Raccoon River Park** this July:

1. The Camtri Kids Triathlon will take place **Saturday, July 9.**
2. The Flatland Kids Triathlon will be held on **Sunday, July 10.**
3. The Pinky Swear Kids Triathlon will occur on **Saturday, July 23.**

Residents and visitors should know that the Camtri and Flatland Triathlons will close Grand Avenue, so please plan accordingly!

On Saturday, July 9 and Sunday, July 10, Grand Avenue will be closed from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) from River Ridge Drive to South 35th Street. (See map below.)

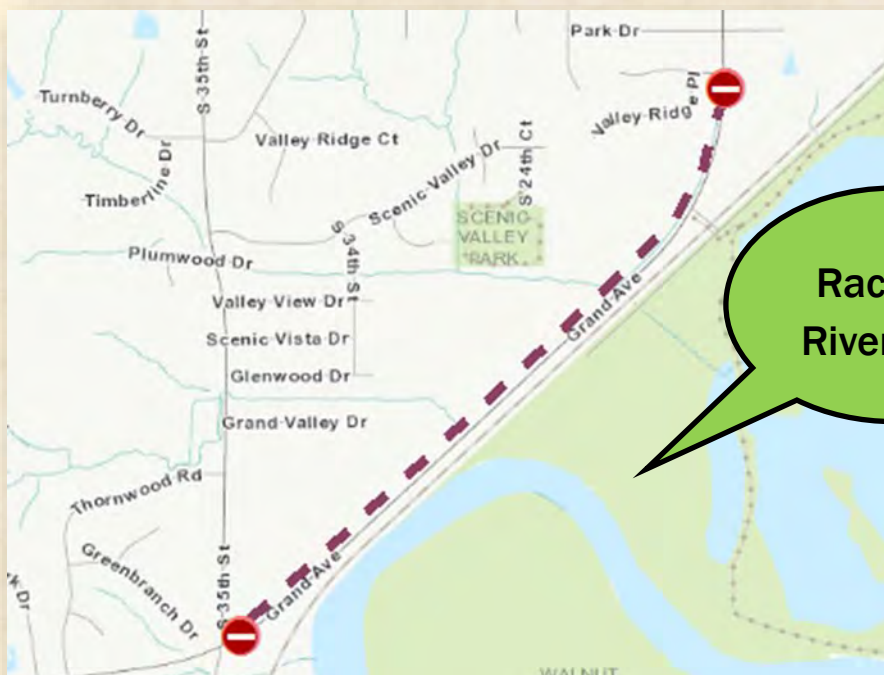
On Saturday, July 23, Grand Avenue will remain open, but the Raccoon River Park will be heavily impacted by triathlon activities.

For the duration of these triathlons, access to Raccoon River Park will be via South 11th Street.

Parking may be limited while the triathlons are taking place in the park until 2:00 p.m. each day. The boat ramp and beach in Raccoon River Park will be closed during the triathlons from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day.

If you have questions, please call Ryan Jacobson in the City Manager's Office at 222-3603 or email him at Ryan.Jacobson@wdm.iowa.gov.

Thank you for your patience as West Des Moines hosts these events!





Construction Update



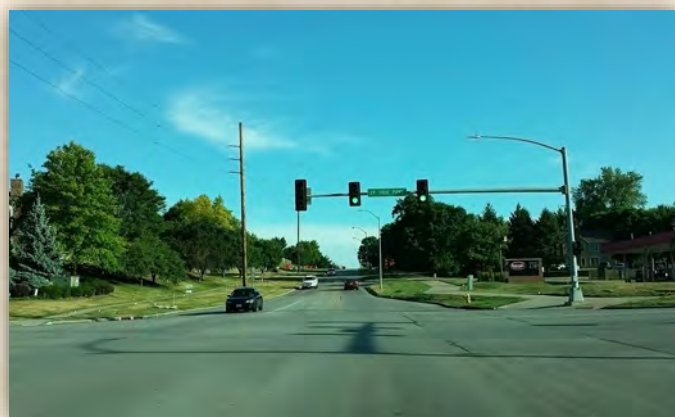
University Avenue Construction Update

As of last week, crews were continuing to work on intake reconstructions and full-depth patching in the outside lanes. Sixteen intakes require reconstruction, and eight have been completed to date.

South 50th Street Reconstruction Project (connects EP True Parkway to Mills Civic Parkway)

Estimated Completion: Fall 2016

The South 50th Street project includes grading, utilities and paving the roadway from Mills Civic Parkway to EP True Parkway. The contractor has closed 50th Street from EP True Parkway to Raintree Drive. Crews have also closed 50th Street from Bentley Drive to Raintree Drive. The detours are posted and everyone has access to their driveway during this first stage of the project.



Grand Avenue (connects South 35th Street to Raccoon River Park entrance)

Estimated Completion: Summer 2016

The Grand Avenue project included grading, utilities and paving of the roadway from South 35th Street to the entrance of Raccoon River Park. Grand Avenue has reopened from the Raccoon River Park entrance to South 35th Street. The intersection of South 35th Street has reopened and the remaining lane closures will be removed by mid-July.

South 60th Street Reconstruction Project (connects Grand Avenue to south of Mills Civic Parkway)

Estimated Completion: Fall 2016

The South 60th Street project includes grading, utilities and paving of the roadway from Grand Avenue to south of Mills Civic Parkway. South 60th Street was closed for road construction on May 31 and it will remain closed for the duration of the project. Access to individual properties will be maintained at all times and access routes will change as necessary during construction.

Please visit the [Construction Updates](#) section of our website for more information and maps that show detour and access routes.

Water Quality Improvements in WDM

The City received another IDALS Water Quality Initiative grant in the amount of \$65,500 for several projects in Woodland Hills Park, a new neighborhood park located at 1230 South 95th Street. The Parks & Recreation Department is excited about the following project components:

Bioretention Cells – Several bio-retention cells and associated native plantings are being installed as part of the park’s stormwater management system. Benefits of these biocells include increased infiltration of rainwater, improved water quality, increased aesthetics, improved wildlife habitat, lower chemical use and educational opportunities.

Soil Quality Restoration & Native Seeding – We will be improving the compacted clay soil on the site by deep aerating and applying compost to about 4 acres. A native seed mix will be planted on approximately 2 acres of the park. The main

benefit of soil quality restoration is improved water infiltration which will decrease runoff of storm-water.



Permeable Pavement – The new parking lot in Woodland Hills Park won’t be a typical concrete lot. It will include an area of permeable pavement that will collect as much rainwater as possible so it can infiltrate rather than runoff. Any water passing through the permeable pavement system will be much cleaner.

These water quality improvements are part of a larger development project that includes a shelter, restroom building and playground. Construction is planned to begin in late August.

For more information, call West Des Moines Parks & Recreation at 222-3447 or check out the department’s [Environmental Efforts](#) section on the City’s website.

City Campus Watershed Project Completed!

In 2015, the City received a \$33,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) Water Quality Initiative program for the City Campus Pond Watershed Improvement Project.

Goals of the project included demonstrating ways to reduce runoff and water pollution, improving the pond’s water quality, and ultimately creating a great place for urban fishing.

- ★ 11 acres seeded in native pollinator mix!
- ★ Soil restoration completed in turf areas!
- ★ Love Your Watershed Event, Earth Day Family Fun Fair, and Wet & Wild Day Camp enjoyed by many!



School Supply Donations Needed

West Des Moines Human Services will be holding its annual school supply distribution for qualifying low-income WDM residents during the week of August 15th.

Last year, 354 kids 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.

Supplies needed include: folders, notebooks, colored pencils, markers, crayons, calculators,



supply boxes, glue, scissors, rulers, protractors, compasses, paper, pencils, erasers, pens, backpacks, etc.

Please drop your donations off to the Human Services Office at 139 6th Street by August 15th.

For more information, please contact Mindy Hotovec at Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov or call her at 222-3663.

Thank you for your support. It does make a big difference in a child's life!

Sammons donates to Skills Development Center

Sammons Financial Group recently made a generous donation of \$17,500 to purchase laptops, a charging cart, projector and screen for use in establishing a Skills Development Center at West Des Moines Human Services.

These items will be extremely beneficial in assisting our efforts to provide HiSET (formerly GED) training and testing for those in need. West Des Moines Human Services is grateful for the partnership with Sammons and for their continued support.

Don't forget about the *Safety Exchange Zone*

The WDM Police Department has established a "Safety Exchange Zone" at the Law Enforcement Center at 250 Mills Civic Parkway. The goal of the Zone is to create a safe environment for people who are selling or buying property through online transactions or conducting child custody exchanges.

The law enforcement center provides a safe public location for these exchanges and it is monitored by surveillance cameras 24 hours a day. Signs will be posted at all "Safety Exchange Zone" sites so the public can quickly recognize where safe environments are located. For more information, contact Officer Jeff Hartshorn at 222-3333 or email him at jeff.hartshorn@wdm.iowa.gov.

