



October
2016

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

Over the next few weeks, the City of West Des Moines will be asking residents, business owners and other community stakeholders about the future direction of our community. This new undertaking focuses on helping us develop a comprehensive economic development strategy that will help ensure we're continuing to foster a vibrant and sustainable economy.

It's important that we work with our residents and business leaders to make sure we're guiding economic growth and prosperity for years to come. Our plan is to use your feedback to build support for strategies and actions that will attract jobs and investment in our area. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, you can find a link to our survey for

residents or business owners at www.innovatewdm.com. I encourage you to keep up with our progress by visiting the project website. Thank you in advance for helping us better understand the benefits of living and working in West Des Moines!

Citizen Survey results will be available soon

ETC Institute will present the results of our Citizen Survey during the City Council meeting on Monday, October 3. This survey helps us find out how satisfied you are with how we're delivering essential City services, and it compares our performance to other cities across the country. We'll have an article that shares the results in next month's newsletter.

Fire Prevention Week activities for you and your family

National Fire Prevention Week runs from October 9 — 15. The WDM Fire Department will honor the memory of firefighters who have served the City by hosting a Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, October 9, at 1 p.m. at Station 18, 5025 Grand Avenue. For more information about Fire Prevention Week, including the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 15, see page 4.



Connect with us!

www.wdm.iowa.gov



Attention all little ghosts and goblins

Have a safe and fun Halloween!



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

2016 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

December 2	Yard Waste Pick-up Ends
January 2 –13, 2017	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

thanks

School Supply Drive a success!

thanks

West Des Moines Human Services would like to thank everyone who donated items for our August school supply giveaway!

Thanks to generous donations, **426 kids** will be starting the school year with the supplies they need to succeed.

A very special thanks goes to Mercy Medical Center, The Wittern Group, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Valley United Methodist Church, WDM Christian Church, Iowa Student Loan, Amerigroup, and Lutheran Church of Hope as well as the many individual donors who contributed to this event!

WDM Parks and Recreation Director retires

On August 31, Parks and Recreation Director Gary Scott celebrated his last day with the City of West Des Moines.

Gary started working for the City as a Landscape Architect in 1984 and became Department Director in 1990. It would be nearly impossible to list all of the ways Gary has been instrumental in making West Des Moines a City that provides everyday enjoyment through people, parks and programs. So we'll simply say,

"Thank you, and you will be missed!"



City Manager Tom Hadden said Sally Ortgies has been named Interim Director upon Gary's retirement. Sally started with the City in 1990 as a Landscape Designer/Architect and was promoted to Superintendent of Parks in 1998. Hadden said Sally has a proven track record of leadership and an in-depth knowledge of department operations. [Recruitment](#) for a new director is underway.



West Des Moines Mayor Steven Gaer talks about Gary's service and commitment to our park system.



Gary Scott (seated, top left) enjoys the spirited comments made from the podium during his retirement party.

Check out our new InfoHub!



Meet our newest trail feature: an InfoHub (also called an Information Hub) that was recently installed along Jordan Creek Trail just west of 50th Street.

One side of the hub features a detailed map and narrative of the West Des Moines parks and trail system.

The other side displays a second map illustrating the extensive network of trails in Central Iowa.

Future amenities for this area include bench seating and our first bike repair station!



Don't Wait
CHECK
the date!

REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 9–15, 2016**

firepreventionweek.org

©NFPA 2016. Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA®

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) surveys show that there are a lot of misconceptions about smoke alarms which may put people at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are or how often they need to be replaced. Please note that smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home so you can keep your family safe.

To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date. Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement. Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (because smoke rises). For more information, visit the [NFPA website](http://www.nfpa.org).



Saturday, October 15, 2016
Station 17 – 1401 Railroad Avenue
7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**OPEN HOUSE
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Celebrate Fire Prevention Week and join us for tours of the fire station, fire safety activities, and the Mercy One helicopter.

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

Help us raise funds for a worthy cause!

Employees compete in our Snow Rodeo

City snowplow drivers are already training for the upcoming winter! Our yearly in-house **Snow Rodeo** was held recently, and the top four 2-person teams will be heading off to the state competition later this month.

The rodeo tests the skills of those who operate snow plows, skid loaders and backhoes with a series of obstacles.

This fun activity not only helps our operators sharpen their skills, but it serves as a friendly competition for everyone involved!



Plan for the ban



The temperatures are getting cooler and the leaves have started falling, which means another Iowa winter is quickly approaching. Don't be caught off-guard this winter when a parking ban is declared! Make a plan now for parking your car during snow emergency parking bans.

Vehicles must be removed from all City streets, alleys and city-owned parking areas when a Snow Emergency Parking Ban is in effect. Vehicles parked in these

areas are subject to being towed and/or a \$50 ticket. The parking ban is effective from its proclamation through 5:00 p.m. the following day, unless it is extended by an additional proclamation due to the length of the storm or large volume of snowfall.

If you normally park in any of these areas, now is the perfect time to make a plan for

when an Emergency Parking Ban is in place and parking is not allowed.



We don't want to tow your car when it snows. Be proactive!

- * When snow is forecast, park your car off the street.
- * If you'll be gone during the winter months, don't leave your car on the street.
- * Enjoy the beauty of an Iowa winter!

New Regulations adopted for food trucks

The West Des Moines City Council adopted new regulations at their August 22 meeting to open up more opportunities for business owners and mobile food vendors to have food available at locations and times that typically may not be served by standard restaurants.

The new regulations require any mobile food vendor to be inspected and licensed annually to do business in West Des Moines and operate on non-residential properties with the approval of the property owner.

Performance standards also were adopted to address concerns such as limitations on the hours of operation if the vendor is within 300 feet of a residentially zoned property, separation from permanent restaurants, a maximum daily duration allowed on the site and a limitation on the number of days per week vehicles can be at a location.

In addition to regulations that apply to one vendor on any site, the new rules also address

requests to allow multiple vendors at one location. Requests for multiple vendors often occur in large office complexes that may not have food options readily available for their tenants.



A separate process was developed that allows property owners to submit an application that would be reviewed for circulation issues and parking and safety concerns.

If the City decides the site is acceptable for this kind of activity, a permit would be issued for up to four units per grouping on a site. Although each individual vendor would still be required to be

licensed, this process was created to allow for more food options for patrons in these areas.

A Temporary Use Permit (on private property) or a Special Event Permit (on public property) are still available for individuals or groups.

For more information or to apply for a permit, contact the West Des Moines City Clerk at (515) 222-3600.

Clothing closet needs donations for fall and winter



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!

Upcoming assistance programs at WDM Human Services

Applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the 2016-2017 program year will be taken by WDM Human Services for households with an elderly or disabled member beginning October 3, 2016. All other households are welcome to apply beginning November 1, 2016, and continuing through April 30, 2017. The LIHEAP program assists qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters by paying a portion of their primary heating costs. WDM Human Services is located at 139 6th Street. 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).

All first time applicants must apply in person.

Walk-ins will be accepted during application hours. For those who are unable to make it during regular application hours due to work or a documented medical reason, appointments may be available for later afternoon hours or applicants can request that materials be mailed to their home address. To apply, applicants must bring:

- ◆ Proof of identification in the form of Social Security cards for all household members. A photo ID is also required for the head of household.
- ◆ Proof of all household members' gross income for the past 3 months or for the past calendar year (a copy of your 2015 federal income tax return).
- ◆ If renting, your landlord's name, address and telephone number.
- ◆ A copy of your most recent heating/electric bill.

LIHEAP is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services through the Iowa Department of Human Rights/DCAA. West Des Moines Human Services serves as a delegate agency of IMPACT Community Action Partnership for the purpose of taking LIHEAP applications.

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 and services are provided to families based on their position on the list. Services include energy audits on the home to help locate efficiency problems, insulating walls, windows and attics, sealing cracks and holes in walls, floors and ceilings and tuning the furnace.

This assistance 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 some type of 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 any of these programs or would like to apply, please contact WDM Human Services at 222-3660 or visit our [website](#).



Construction Update



University Avenue Construction Update

In addition to ongoing sidewalk ramp and manhole adjustment work, the contractor will be completing additional full-depth patching at the west end of the project near the northbound off ramp of Interstate 35/80 beginning Sunday, Oct. 2. Eastbound lane closures at this location will be in place overnight between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. All impacted lanes will be reopened each morning prior to the morning rush. The work is expected to be completed by Friday, Oct. 7, depending on the weather. At least one eastbound lane of traffic will remain open at all times. Some eastbound and northbound turning movements in and around the work zone may be restricted. Flagger will be present to direct vehicles.

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

Estimated Completion: Fall 2016

The contractor has poured the east and northbound turn lanes on Mills Civic Parkway and installed all storm sewer pipe and structures except between the Hawthorne Drive and Raintree Drive area. General roadway grading has been completed from EP True to Raintree Drive and much of the pavement removal has been completed. Since most of the mainline paving will have to be completed under cooler temperatures, it's likely that artificial light will be necessary in the evening hours to complete the concrete pours.

Grand Prairie Parkway (Connects I-80 Interchange to Mills Civic Parkway)

Estimated Completion: Fall 2016

The Grand Prairie Parkway project will include grading, utilities and paving the roadway from the I-80 Interchange to Mills Civic Parkway. The contractor continues to mainline pave, and the paving should be completed in about two weeks. Grading and restoration is anticipated to take 2 to 3 weeks to complete once the paving is done.

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. The contractor has paved three lanes from Grand Avenue to Booneville Road, and crews have paved the DMACC driveway and the bike trail between Booneville Road to Grand Avenue. McAninch is working on the water main near the Pheasant Ridge entrance. It will take several weeks to install the storm & sanitary sewers from Booneville Road to the Pheasant Ridge east driveway.

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