



November
2017

West Des Moines eNewsletter

Election Day is November 7

On Tuesday, November 7, residents of West Des Moines will be asked to go to the polls to cast a vote in our municipal election!

- ◆ **Mayor**
(1 to be elected for a 4-year term)
Steven K. Gaer
- ◆ **At Large Councilmember**
(1 to be elected for a 4-year term)
Renee Hardman
Rick Messerschmidt
- ◆ **First Ward Councilmember**
(1 to be elected for a 4-year term)
Kevin L. Trevillyan

- ◆ **Third Ward Councilmember**
(1 to be elected for a 4-year term)
Nadir Mehta
Russ Trimble



- ◆ **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**
(2 to be elected for 4-year terms)
Heather Schebel
Rick Swalwell

West Des Moines residents who live in Dallas County also will be asked to vote on a local option sales and services tax (LOSST). For more information about this ballot issue, see page 2.



Meet our new Police Chief!

City Manager Tom Hadden has selected Chris Scott to serve as the City's new Police Chief! Scott has 19 years of law enforcement experience and currently serves as a Police Lieutenant in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hadden said he was pleased with the quality of the applicants. "We had an excellent group of individuals on our list of finalists, and I want to thank all the people who participated in the selection and recruitment process," he said. "I'm confident Lieutenant Scott has the enthusiasm, knowledge and management skills we need in our Police Chief." Scott will begin his position on December 4.



Chris Scott

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Local Option Sales and Services Tax for the voters of the City of West Des Moines residing in Dallas County, Iowa

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, the voters of West Des Moines residing in Dallas County will be asked to vote in the general election on a measure that would impose a local sales and services tax at the rate of one (1) percent in the incorporated area of West Des Moines located in Dallas County.

The Dallas County Board of Supervisors placed this measure on the ballot after receiving a petition from the voters of Dallas County. If this ballot measure passes, the tax would become effective on July 1, 2018.

How will the funds be used?

A resolution adopted by the West Des Moines City Council on August 21, 2017, states that revenue from the one percent sales and services tax will be allocated as follows:

- ◆ 50% of revenue will be applied directly to city property tax reduction for all property tax payers in West Des Moines.
- ◆ 50% of revenue will be applied to construction of public parks, recreational facilities and trails; public infrastructure construction; and public safety expenditures.

Who has a local option sales tax now?

In Iowa, 96 out of 99 counties (over 1,300 cities and unincorporated areas) already have a local option sales tax which allows them to collect an extra penny in sales tax for every dollar spent in their communities.

How many votes are needed for this ballot measure to pass?

If Dallas County residents in West Des Moines, Waukee, Clive and Urbandale vote 50% plus one in favor of a one cent sales tax, this ballot measure will pass in Dallas County and go into effect on July 1, 2018.

Forty percent of the revenue this sales tax would generate for West Des Moines would come from people who do not live in West Des Moines.

How much money would be collected? How would this affect property taxes?

If passed, West Des Moines would collect \$1,694,193. West Des Moines' current tax rate is \$12.00 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. The reduced rate, if this measure passes, would be \$11.82 per \$1,000 in taxable valuation.

What does this ballot measure allow voters in Dallas County to do?

This ballot measure allows voters in Dallas County to decide if a local option sales tax is appropriate for their communities.

Ballot language for the Nov. 7, 2017, vote:

Shall the City of West Des Moines impose a local option sales and services tax at the rate of one (1) percent in the incorporated area of West Des Moines located in Dallas County, Iowa, to become effective July 1, 2018?

Yes ___ or No ___

Find your [polling place](#).

[Register online](#).

Obtain an [absentee ballot](#).

Curbside collection of yard debris ends December 1



Residents receiving city-provided waste disposal will have an opportunity to get rid of any additional yard debris (along with live Christmas trees) during winter collection which takes place on their normal garbage day from January 2 – 12, 2018.

Winter weather is just around the corner

Here are a few “fun facts” about winter in West Des Moines that should help you cope with the snow and ice!

When there’s snow in the forecast, assume there will be a Parking Ban put in place. Don’t park on city streets, alleys or on city-owned parking lots. If you do, you’ll likely get a ticket or tow!

The priorities for clearing streets during a winter event are:

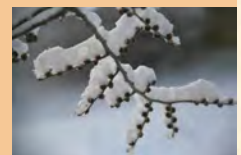
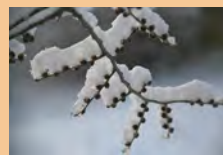
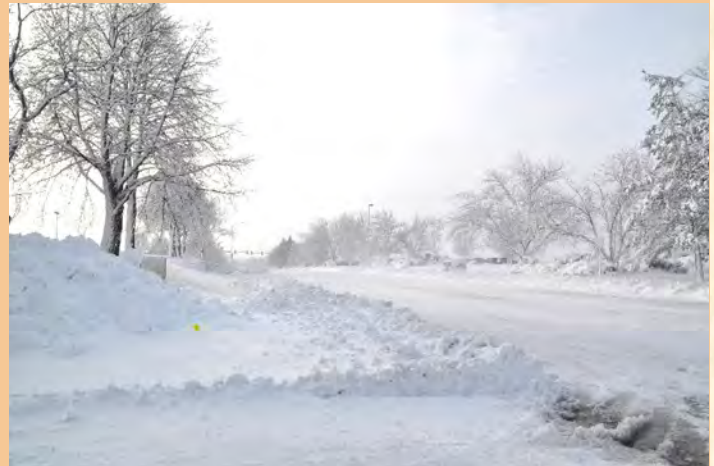
1. Major arterial streets
2. Collector streets
3. Residential streets, public sidewalks
4. Cul-de-sacs, alleys and City trails

Depending on storm conditions, crews may be coming down your street more than once to fully plow the snow to the curb. You can’t assume that since you saw a plow go down your street you can now park there.

Call the **Snow Hotline at 273-0766** if you’re unsure whether a parking ban is in place.

Sidewalks are to be cleared by property owners within 24 hours after the end of a storm.

Winter snow is beautiful. Enjoy, be safe and give those plows plenty of room, please!



Sunday Supper raises over \$60,000

West Des Moines Human Services held its 8th annual *Sunday Supper In Our Town* fundraising benefit on September 24 at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar. More than 145 guests attended the dinner which raises money to support programs for low-income, elderly and disabled residents in the western suburbs. **Presenting sponsors were R&R Realty Group and Atlantic Bottling Company.**

Other sponsors included: Ahlers & Cooney P.C., American Equity, Athene, Bankers Trust, Sam & Mary Bernabe, Brian Lynch Hairstyling, Brick Gentry P.C., John Burgus, Crown Cleaners, Davis Brown Law, 3E Electrical Engineering, Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance, First National Bank, Foster Group, Foth, Steve & Sally Gaer, Kyle & Laurie Galles, Elaine & Brian Gifford, Gilcrest/Jewett Lumber, Tom & Tina Hadden, Jo & Dale Helling, Althea Holcomb, HR Green, Hy-Vee Inc., ITA Group Foundation, Lawson Family Dentistry, Northwest Bank, Rick & Karen Riley, Bob & Diane Shoemaker, Stivers Ford Lincoln, TMG Management, Russ & Alana Trimble, TrueNorth Companies, UnityPoint Health, UTC Aerospace Systems, Valley Eye Clinic, Dr. Matthew Weresh, Dan & Carol Werner, West Bank, Sue Wright and Wright Tree Service.



Thank you to all who contributed!

From left to right: *Sunday Supper organizers and Human Services board members Randy Steig, Dody Christy, Mary Bernabe, Dan Werner, Stacey Dorsey and Lyle Hiatt*

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. 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. 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. Your gifts may be delivered direct 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 in need during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Provide **NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS OR GIFT CARDS** for kids (newborn through 18 years of age) to support our annual Toyland program. Toyland is available to low-income families who are not sponsored through the Adopt-A-Family program.

Provide a **GROCERY GIFT CARD OR FOOD BASKET** to assist a low-income family.

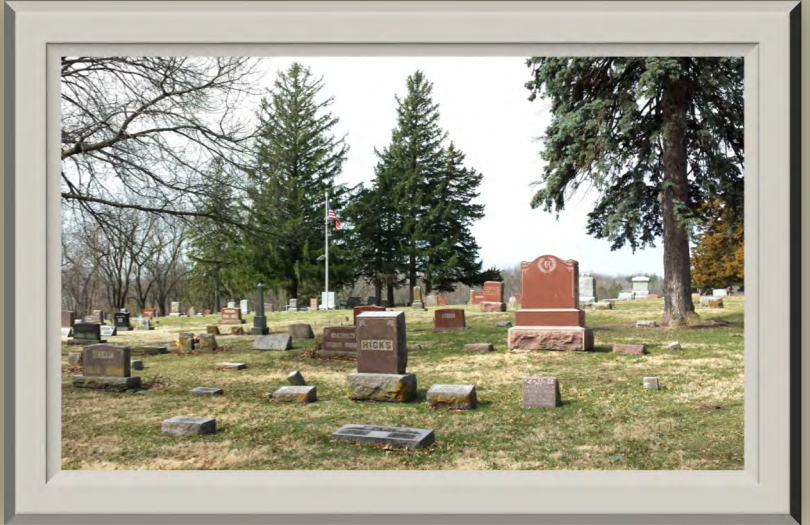


Jordan Cemetery Fall Cleanup begins Nov. 6


On Monday, November 6, West Des Moines City staff will begin clearing flowers and decorations from graves in Jordan Cemetery, 2950 Fuller Road, in preparation for the fall/winter season.

City officials are asking citizens to remove any items that should not be thrown away by Sunday, November 5. Decorations may be placed on graves again starting on Monday, November 13. If you have questions, please contact Dave Sadler at (515) 222-3444.

Jordan Cemetery was founded by one of Polk County's earliest settlers, James C. Jordan, who arrived in Polk County in 1846. The cemetery is now managed by the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department.



Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

 December 1	Yard Waste Pickup Ends
Jan. 2–12, 2018	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection!

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Options:

Metro Northwest Drop-Off – 4105 SE Beisser Drive, Grimes
2nd Saturday in the months of March thru December, 8 a.m.– noon

Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off – 1105 Prairie Drive SW, Bondurant
Tuesday–Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 8 a.m. to noon

House-Side Collection – learn more at www.WhereltShouldGo.com/houseside

Visit www.WhereltShouldGo.com for more information.



Yard waste and annual spring cleanup 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).

Questions? Call the Public Services Department at 222-3480.

FALL application helps plants in the **SPRING**



Apply Compost Now for Benefits in the Spring

Most plants bloom in the spring, but give them a head start to thrive right now in the fall!

Metro Waste Authority makes nutrient-rich compost from your yard waste. Using it on your garden produces structure for your soil and keeps your plants healthy.

Applying compost in the fall allows nutrients to penetrate the soil just before the ground freezes for the winter months. During spring thaw, the nutrients and other benefits become available for plants to use as they begin to germinate.

Metro Waste Authority's compost is produced right here in Central Iowa and is available for only \$10 a cubic yard at the Metro Compost Center in Des Moines.

Metro Compost Center

1601 Harriet Street

Des Moines, IA 50317

Hours: M-F, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Bag & Take Compost

MWA has heard your requests for smaller, more convenient quantities of compost, so officials are happy to announce that compost is now available to purchase in 2-cubic foot bags for \$4 each.

Residents can self-fill and self-load the bags at the Metro Northwest Transfer Station in Grimes. Bags are only available at the Northwest Transfer Station for now as a pilot program, but MWA is looking forward to expanding in the future.

Metro Northwest Transfer Station

4105 SE Beisser Drive

Grimes, IA 50111

Hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Second Saturday of the month,
8 a.m. to Noon

MWA also is gearing up for a great season in 2018 as well, when compost will be available for purchase at Metro Park East Landfill in Mitchellville.

If these locations are not convenient for you, check out Metro Waste Authority's list of retail sellers for more options. For application tips and more, visit www.WhereltShouldGo.com.

Beginning the first Saturday in November, Metro Park East Landfill will move to Fall-Winter Saturday hours (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.).
[Read more.](#)



Safe disposal?



BRIGHT IDEA!



Waste Authority has the information to help you keep them all straight!

CFL (compact fluorescent) bulbs are hazardous due to their mercury content, and LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs contain hazardous material in the form of lead. Both belong at a hazardous disposal site to be safely recycled. Incandescent bulbs, however, contain no hazardous material and can go in your curbside garbage. MWA recommends wrapping bulbs in two bags to avoid injury from a broken bulb.

As a bonus during the months of November and December, bring in an old hazardous bulb (CFL, LED or fluorescent tube) to the **Northwest Drop-Off**, and get a brand-new LED bulb for free, courtesy of Metro Waste Authority and A-tec Recycling Inc.

Stop by on the second Saturday of the month between 8 a.m. and noon in Grimes and you'll get one bulb. You can also bring up to 75 pounds of old bulbs or other hazardous waste free of charge. *(Bring a bulb, get a bulb offer available only at the Northwest Drop-Off.)*

In addition to light bulbs, Metro Waste Authority's drop-offs accept all kinds of hazardous material. Products with labels that say toxic, flammable,

Sometimes it seems like there are too many types of light bulbs to keep track of: LEDs, CFLs and incandescent bulbs. Fortunately, Metro

corrosive or keep out of reach of children are considered hazardous and should not be thrown away with the rest of your garbage. Metro Waste Authority facilities dispose of these items in safe ways that protect residents and the environment. To find out if a specific item is hazardous, visit www.WhereltShouldGo.com/HHW or call (515) 967-5512.

Northwest Hazardous Waste Drop-Off – Extended Hours!

(Metro Northwest Transfer Station)

4105 SE Beisser Dr., Grimes, IA 50111

Open 2nd Saturday of the month; March – Dec., from 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) or by appointment. Call (515) 967-5512.

Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

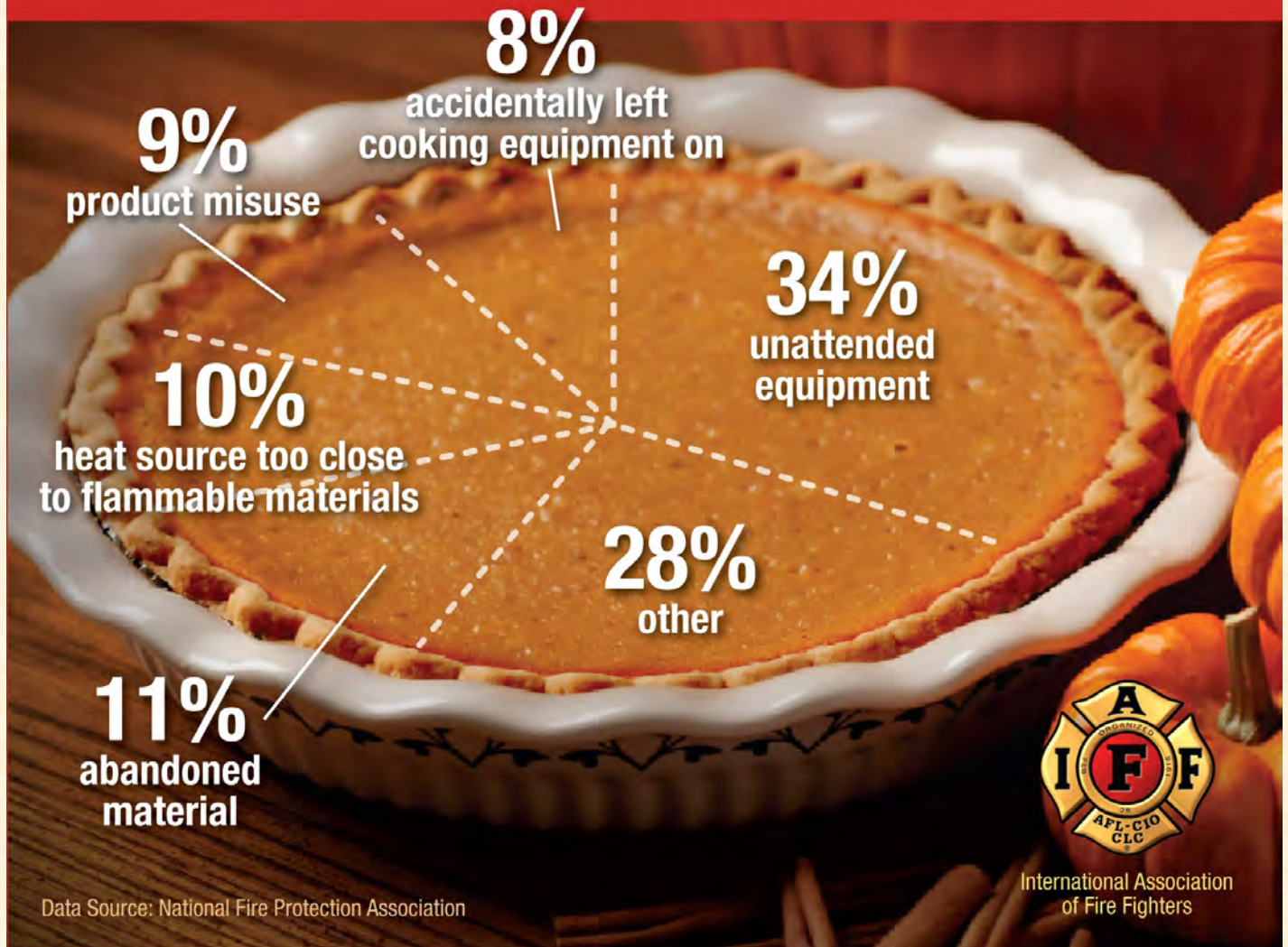
1105 Prairie Drive SW, Bondurant, IA 50035

Open Tuesday – Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon).



THANKSGIVING SAFETY

Fire fighters say the greatest number of home cooking fires occur on **Thanksgiving Day**. Top causes are:



Construction Updates



If you would like to learn more about Engineering and Parks and Recreation projects under construction, just visit our [website](#).