



July
2023

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Independence Day in WDM!



The City's Annual Independence Day Parade will be held on Monday, July 3, at 6:30 p.m.

The City also will have a **Fireworks Display at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4, at the WDM City Campus** by City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Parkway.

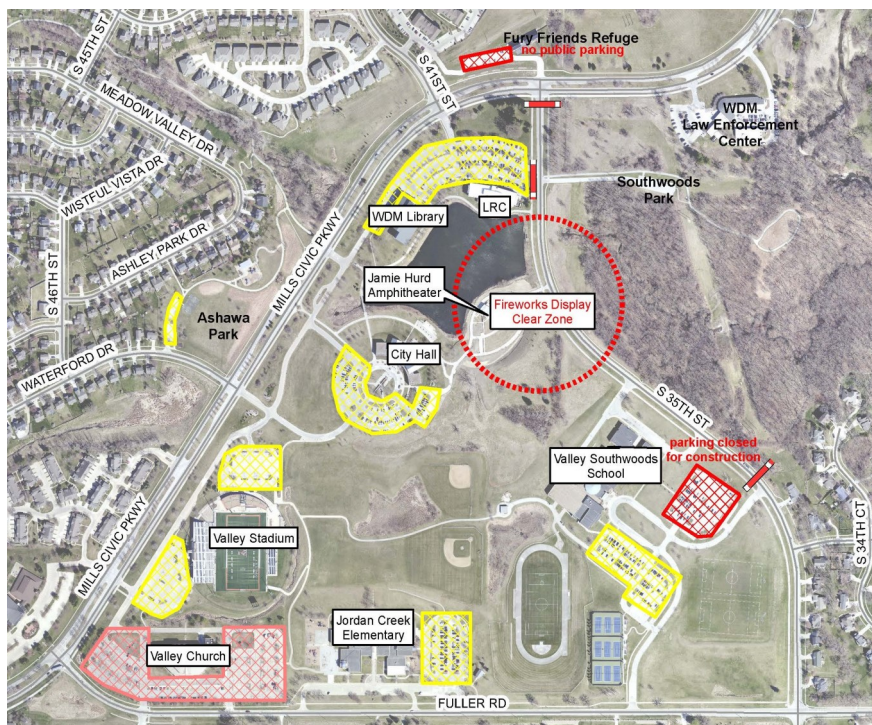
Fireworks will NOT be held at Raccoon River Park.

Parking lots (yellow areas on the map) will be open to spectators at 7:00 p.m. Alcohol and grills are not permitted on campus. Parking at Valley Church is allowed only for those with permission.

The parade route will begin at Valley West Drive and Ashworth (lineup begins at 5:15 p.m.).

[View a map of the parade route and learn more about activities in West Des Moines.](#)

City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, for the holiday. Garbage collection will be delayed one day for the rest of the week, with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.



Please note: It is illegal to discharge fireworks in the City limits of West Des Moines. Only hand-held sparklers, snakes & party pops are allowed.

For everyone's safety, including your own, be a good neighbor and leave the fireworks to the professionals. Just sit back and enjoy our display on July 4!

Connect with us! www.wdm.iowa.gov



Upcoming changes to Animal Control in West Des Moines!

Effective July 1, 2023, the City of West Des Moines will be working with AHeinz57 Pet Rescue and Transport as our new service provider for animal control services. Although the City's contract with Furry Friends Refuge will expire on June 30, 2023, residents may still visit Furry Friends and utilize their pet adoption services.

As usual, if residents need help with an animal, they are encouraged to call **Westcom nonemergency dispatch at (515) 222-3321 for any animal control needs** (missing pets, stray dogs and cats, animal bites/scratches, barking dogs, etc.).

If you have a stray or potentially vicious animal, Westcom will dispatch a Neighborhood Services Specialist or a Police Officer to your location to pick up the animal. If you have a friendly stray, you can also schedule a time to take that animal and meet staff at our new temporary holding facility at the Public Services East building, located at 560 So. 16th Street in West Des Moines.

Animals will be held for four or seven days depending on whether there are signs of ownership (such as a microchip, collar or tags). [Effective July 1, 2023, to reclaim an animal, you will need to pay an impound fee online via Xpress Bill Pay on the City's website](#) or in person (check or cash) at City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic, during normal business hours. Please bring a photo ID and proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination.

Once you've paid your fee and you have a receipt, you're ready to reclaim your pet by calling Westcom nonemergency dispatch at 515-222-3321. Just let them know you have a receipt and you're ready to pick up your animal. When you agree on a pick-up time, go to the City's Animal Holding Fa-

cility located at 560 South 16th Street. Follow the signs to the back of the building and someone will be there to reunite you with your pet!



Any animal unclaimed after four or seven days will be transferred to AHeinz57 Pet Rescue (on or after July 1, 2023) to be made available for adoption. [You may visit the AHeinz57 website at www.heinz57.com/adopt-a-pet to see what animals are currently available for adoption.](http://www.heinz57.com/adopt-a-pet)

[Read our frequently asked questions to gain a better understanding of animal control services in West Des Moines.](#)

Please Note: Residents are required to license all dogs and cats in West Des Moines. A license helps us reunite people with their animals, and it helps us keep a safe, rabies-free community. Call the City's Finance Department at (515) 222-3600 or [visit our website to get or renew your pet license](#). You also may get a license at City Hall.



City Neighborhood Services Specialists, Amy Heinz (yellow shirt) and a volunteer from AHeinz57 brought some cute dogs looking for their forever homes to our Public Works Week Celebration in Valley Junction.

CED Director Clyde Evans to retire later this month

Community and Economic Development Director Clyde Evans will retire on July 17 after 32 years of service with the City!

Evans moved with his family from California to West Des Moines in 1992. Although he acknowledges he was in “on the ground floor” of a number of major projects, Evans says it takes a team of people to make them come alive.

“We have a lean staffing model in our City, so we learned early on to plan carefully,” he said. “We also make sure the community can be proud of our projects because that ensures you get the best you can for your residents and businesses.”

City Manager Tom Hadden said West Des Moines saw the development of a number of major projects during Clyde’s tenure, such as Jordan Creek Town Center, the Wells Fargo Campuses, Athene, Microsoft’s five datacenters and the revitalization of Valley Junction.

“Clyde has been an amazing advocate for our entire area,” Hadden said. “He’s done a phenomenal job, and we wish him the best as he moves on to this next chapter in his life.”

Evans credits an early and careful emphasis on strategic planning for positioning West Des Moines for decades of continued growth and development.

“We have things in place now that will pay dividends well into the future,” he said. “We have so much happening that it will be bittersweet to walk out that door at City Hall and know I won’t have a

front row seat to watch things take off.”

Hadden announced in June that Ryan Moffatt would serve as the City’s new Community and Economic Development Director.

Moffatt has been employed with the City of Des Moines since 2005, most recently as an Economic Development Coordinator. He has experience with a wide array of economic development work that crosses many real estate sectors, and during his time with the City of Des Moines, he has specialized in downtown and corridor redevelopment efforts.

Before serving as Economic Development Coordinator, Moffatt served as a Project Manager with the City of Des Moines Office of Economic Development and a Senior City Planner with the Community Development Department. He has a bachelor of science in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University and a master’s of Public Administration (MPA) from Drake University.



Clyde Evans takes a break to pose for a quick photo by the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater.



Ryan Moffatt



PARKS AND RECREATION JULY HIGHLIGHTS

7/1	GREAT AMERICAN CAMPOUT	CITY CAMPUS	FREE
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30	YOGA ON THE LAWN	CITY HALL	FREE
7/1, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29	LAKESIDE LUNCH	BOATHOUSE	VARIES
7/2	SUMMER SUNDAZE: JAKE GILL	AMPHITHEATER	FREE
7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27	FAIRYTALE TIME IN THE PARK	VARIOUS PARKS	FREE
7/8, 7/22	PARENTS' NIGHT OUT	RECPLEX	\$20
7/9	SUMMER SUNDAZE: JOSHUA SINCLAIR	AMPHITHEATER	FREE
7/14	MOONLIT MOVIE: PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH	AMPHITHEATER	FREE
7/16	EUCHRE TOURNAMENT	ACTIVITY CENTER	\$10
7/16	SUMMER SUNDAZE: THE CRUST	AMPHITHEATER	FREE
7/18, 7/25	TRIVIA TUESDAY	AMPHITHEATER	FREE
7/21	MOONLIT MOVIE: MONSTERS, INC	AMPHITHEATER	FREE
7/22	PRINCESS & PIRATE SPLASH BASH	HOLIDAY POOL	\$20
7/23	SUMMER SUNDAZE: FLYING SILOS	AMPHITHEATER	FREE
7/30	SUMMER SUNDAZE: LANI	AMPHITHEATER	FREE

Lawn restoration efforts underway

We know how much you value a good looking lawn, so please know crews are out and about restoring grass that was disturbed in the parking when our conduit network was installed in your neighborhood.

This activity occurs during seeding windows in the spring and fall when grass has an opportunity to take root.

Once crews apply mulch and seed, please make sure you water the area several times a week to nurture the soil so the grass will grow.



West Des Moines Digital Conduit Enterprise Network

Informational Resources:

- Digital Conduit Map
- Lawn Restoration
- Project Updates



515-222-3578

wiredwdm.org

Triathlons at Raccoon River Park on July 8 & 9

The City of West Des Moines will be hosting two youth triathlons in Raccoon River Park in July.

The RipRoar Youth Triathlon will take place on Saturday, July 8, and the Flatland Cup Triathlon will take place on Sunday, July 9.

On Saturday, July 8

- ◆ Grand Avenue will remain open
- ◆ Raccoon River Park main entrance **will be closed** from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (access into the park will be via South 11th Street)
- ◆ Parking will be very limited for the duration of the triathlon
- ◆ Beach **will be closed** to the public for the duration of the triathlon
- ◆ Boat ramp and the Boathouse will remain open

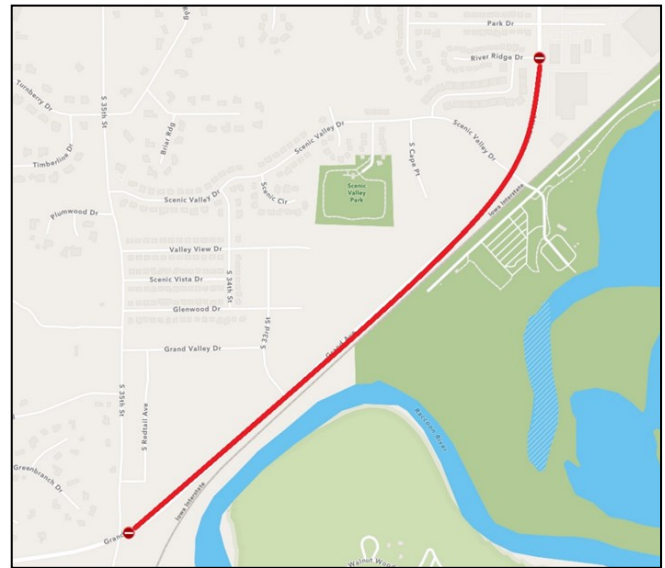
On Sunday, July 9

- ◆ Grand Avenue **will be closed** from approximately 5:30 a.m. to noon from River Ridge Drive to South 35th Street. (See map below.)
- ◆ Raccoon River Park main entrance **will be closed** from 5:30 a.m. to noon (access into the park will be via South 11th Street)

- ◆ Parking will be very limited for the duration of the triathlon
- ◆ Beach **will be closed** to the public for the duration of the triathlon
- ◆ Boat ramp and the Boathouse **will be closed** to the public until 12:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, call Ryan Jacobson in the City Clerk's Office at (515) 222-3603 or [email him](#).

Thank you for your patience as our City hosts these events!



PUBLIC SERVICES AT WORK!

The summer months are some of the busiest times of the year for our Public Services crews as they repair, improve and maintain roads, sewers, parks and other facilities throughout the City.

[Check out this compilation video to see some of the work being done to keep West Des Moines a great place to live and work!](#)

Celebrate the end of summer reading at the WDM Library!

We'll be hosting TWO parties at the end of the summer to celebrate readers. The first is for adults only and will be hosted after hours on Friday, July 28, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. [The Adult Summer Read Wrap-Up Party will include fun bookish games, free books, and ice cream treats!](#) Registration is required for the adult-only event. The family-friendly celebration will be the next day, Saturday, July 29, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. [The Summer Finale is a giant party in the library's backyard](#) where we'll have our foam machine, inflatables, a dunk tank, balloon animals, and more!



See Upcoming Event Highlights below. [Registration for July events opens at 9:00 AM on July 1.](#)



Owls of Iowa with Polk County Conservation

Monday, July 17 - 1:30 - 2:15 PM (Ages 5-12)

Meet Jester Park's newest education ambassador, Luna the Great Horned Owl. Learn about Iowa owls and their special adaptations that allow them to function and survive. Registration required.



Teen Terracotta Pot Art & Plants

Wednesday, July 19 - 2:00 - 3:30 PM (Grades 6-12)

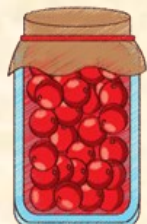
Join us for worms in dirt, and an afternoon of art! Participants will decorate their own planter to take home. Potting soil and plants will be available to take home in your new planter! Registration required.



Was the Book Better Than the Movie: Old

Saturday, July 22 - 1:00 - 4:00 PM (Adults)

Read the book beforehand (if you like), and then come and enjoy a good movie, followed by some lively discussion about the differences between the two. This month we will watch "Old," based on the graphic novel *Sandcastle* by Frederik Peeters and Pierre Oscar Lévy. The library will provide popcorn. No registration.



Preserve The Taste of Summer 101

Monday, July 24 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM (Adults)

Home food preservation is not difficult, but it does require following specific directions to keep you, your family, and friends safe. Preserve the Taste of Summer 101 will teach you the researched-backed basics of canning, freezing, and drying foods safely at home. Registration requested.

Mosquito control tips for homeowners



Did you know that spraying for mosquitos can often be unproductive?

In a community like West Des Moines where significant open spaces and waterways

exist, spraying is not an effective method of control. In lieu of spraying, the City applies larvicide pellets with both helicopters and ground crews. Staff will also treat slow draining catch basins with materials designed for a slow release of larvicide killer.

The City sprays park areas where large groups gather during holiday weekends, weather permitting; the rest of the year the focus is on minimizing the larvae population. Since mosquito spraying creates health concerns for some residents, the City always sends out media releases prior to spraying.

The CDC recommends repellent with DEET and long-sleeved clothing as the most effective methods of prevention. Additional mosquito control tips for homeowners:

No standing water

- Remove buckets or other items that may collect water

- Turn over or cover kids toys with a tarp
- Tighten outdoor faucets so there is no leaking water
- Keep gutters/downspouts clear

Plant mosquito-repelling plants

- Mosquitos are naturally repelled by many flowers, herbs and plants, such as marigolds, catnip, horsemint and ageratum

Keep Grass Short – this helps limit resting places for mosquitos to breed

Use yellow “bug” bulbs for outdoor light fixtures

Independence Day Holiday Reminders:

If mosquito populations are elevated, the Public Services Department will be spraying in various City parks, weather permitting, starting the evening hours of Wednesday, June 28, through Monday, July 3. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Services Department at 515-222-3480.

And don't forget: If you plan on enjoying the great outdoors this summer, be sure to dress appropriately and take along the bug spray!

Use SeeClickFix to report potholes & code issues

[SeeClickFix](#) is the quickest, easiest way for residents to submit non-emergency requests, stay updated on their issues and initiate change in West Des Moines!

In addition to reporting on the website, an app can be downloaded on your Android or iPhone, making it a quick and easy way to report issues to the City. You can sign up anonymously or enter your email to receive updates



from us. SeeClickFix is your service desk for non-emergency issues such as storm drain problems, weeds and tall grass violations, graffiti, broken sidewalks, and traffic signal/sign problems.

[Just download the app or visit the City's website at \[www.wdm.iowa.gov\]\(http://www.wdm.iowa.gov\) and look for SeeClickFix in the very bottom left-hand corner of the main page.](#)

School supply distribution for qualifying households



West Des Moines Human Services will be holding its **annual school supply distribution** for qualifying, low-income households on August 15. Registration begins July 10 and continues through August

10. Proof of address and income verification is required. Must be a resident of West Des Moines. **Registration begins online on July 10.**

School physicals at the VJ Free Clinic

School physicals are also offered for qualifying low-income, uninsured or under-insured youth at the Valley Junction Free Medical Clinic located at West Des Moines Human Services.

No appointment necessary. Walk-ins welcome on Tuesday evenings between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Check-in by 7:30 p.m.

School Supply Donations Needed

If you're able, please consider donating supplies or making a monetary contribution which allows items to be purchased in bulk.

Supplies needed include: folders, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, glue, calculators, supply boxes, scissors, rulers, paper, backpacks, etc.

Please drop off your donation to the Human Services office at 139 6th Street by August 14 or supplies may be ordered from their Amazon Supply List and shipped directly. **To donate school supplies, or for more information, just visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/SchoolSupplyDrive. You also may contact us at HumanServices@wdm.iowa.gov or (515) 222-3663.**



English Language Learner (ELL) classes resume this fall

English Language Learner (ELL) classes will resume this fall at Human Services. These free classes are designed to teach adults of limited English proficiency how to read, write, and speak the English language.

The classes focus on the fundamental elements of the English language (spelling, vocabulary, verb tense, grammar). Students are divided into beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.

The level of instruction is determined by assessment scores taken during the first class. The classes take place in ten-week sessions on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The next session begins on September 5. Free transportation is available for WDM residents. On-site childcare is also available (as well as volunteer opportunities!). Call (515) 222-3663 for more information or **[visit our website to register for ELL classes](#)**.

2023 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

April 3	Yard Waste Pickup begins on your normal trash collection day
April 15	Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. West Des Moines Public Services East, 560 S. 16th Street
May 18	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Valley Junction Farmer’s Market
June 5 – 9	Annual Spring Cleanup – on your regular trash day. No appliances accepted (see June 10 event).
June 10	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off 8 a.m. – 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services East
 September 9	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off 8 a.m. – 12:00 (noon), WDM Public Services East, 560 S. 16th Street
November 25	Yard Waste Pickup Ends
January 1 – 12, 2024	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

Yard Waste and Annual Spring Cleanup events are available to all WDM residents who are eligible for solid waste collection. Questions? Call Public Services at 515-222-3480.



Construction Updates



[Visit the City’s website to learn more about Engineering and Parks and Recreation projects under construction.](#)

[Drone footage is now available on the City’s YouTube Channel.](#)

Scroll down to the Engineering Services section.



[View drone footage of our 8th Street Reconstruction Project!](#)

