



February
2024

West Des Moines eNewsletter

Thank you for celebrating MLK Day with us!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on a very cold day in January to celebrate MLK Day at the MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex!

Rich Salas, Ph.D., gave an inspiring keynote speech that helped make this event relevant and meaningful. We also want to thank all the volunteers who participated in the Meals from the Heartland packaging event.

In addition, [congratulations to Al Womble and Des Moines University for being selected as the winners of our Community Service Awards.](#)

We also want to recognize [our Youth Leadership Scholarship Award winners: Melvin Bryson, Yasser Samir and SirMichael Carrington Williams-Thomas.](#)

See more photos on Page 3!



Tiffany Berkenes, Chair of the WDM Human Rights Commission, welcomes the crowd and recognizes the planning team, event sponsors and members of the Human Rights Commission.



Front row (from left to right), MLK Day Student Leadership Scholarship Winners: SirMichael Carrington Williams-Thomas, Yasser Samir and Melvin Bryson. Back row: Councilmember Matt McKinney, Mayor Russ Trimble, Councilmember Renee Hardman and Councilmember Greg Hudson.

Connect with us!

www.wdm.iowa.gov



How do I know if there's an Emergency Snow Parking Ban?

- Sign up for **text** and **email alerts!**

➔ [Sign up for text messages](#)

➔ [Sign up for e-mails at www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotifications](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotifications)

- Visit www.wdm.iowa.gov. Look for the **banner** (at the very top of the page) and the **News article** at the bottom of the main page.
- Call the Snow Hotline at (515) 273-0766 (Available 24/7, just like the website)

- [Follow the City of West Des Moines – City Manager's Office on Facebook @cityofwdm.](#)

◆ Please note: Now that residents can sign up to receive text messages, X (formerly Twitter) @cityofwdm will no longer be used to communicate snow parking bans, effective January 1, 2024.



Always remember that if forecasts call for measurable snow of an inch or more, we'll likely issue a snow parking ban so crews can safely and effectively clear our streets.

Keep pets safe in the winter

Temperatures below freezing along with frigid wind chills are dangerous for our four-legged friends!

Don't let your pets linger outside too long in severe cold weather because they are at risk of frostbite on their paws and ears.

[View cold-weather tips from the Animal Rescue League designed to keep your pets and the pets in your community safe.](#)



Many thanks to our MLK Day sponsors: City of West Des Moines, WDM Chamber of Commerce, WDM Community Schools, Des Moines University, WDM Historical Society, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Meals from the Heartland, Taste of the Junction and Polk County!



Keynote speaker Rich Salas, Ph.D., Chief Diversity Officer at Des Moines University.



AI Womble, winner of the Individual MLK Community Leadership Award.



Angela Walker Franklin, Ph.D., accepts the Community Leadership Award for DMU.



Tiffany Tauscheck, President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.



Feel the Love at the WDM Library!

Back by popular demand, we have a **Blind Date with a Book** display up on the second floor near the New Books! Read the short description on the outside of a wrapped book, take a chance on love and check it out, then let us know how your “date” went by tagging us in your review on social media! We’ll be keeping an eye on Facebook and Instagram and sharing date reviews as the month goes on.

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

Reminder: The library will be closed on Monday, February 19, for staff training.



Family Night at the Library: Valentine's!

Monday, February 5: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (All ages)

We'll get out lots of paper, stamps and other craft materials to make some amazing valentines for all the lovely people in your lives! For all ages. Please register each person attending (children and adults).



Introduction to Dungeons & Dragons

Saturday, February 10, 17, 24: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Ages 15+)

Join us for three sessions that will introduce you to the social, exciting and imaginative experience of D&D. Attendees will not only learn the basic rules, but also how to create a character – and then play through a game. Content will also be offered to help new Dungeon Masters get started running their own games. Registration required. Ages 15+.



Where to Start to Love Your Heart

Tuesday, February 13: 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM (Adults)

Taking care of your heart doesn't have to be complicated. You can start by uncovering some common heart care myths and then begin your journey toward heart health with 3 simple dietary strategies and 3 supplements to pump up your heart health. No registration.



Teen After-Hours Mini Golf

Friday, February 23: 5:45 PM - 8:30 PM (Grades 6-12)

Join us for an after-hours mini golf game throughout the library! Pizza will be served. Signed permission slips required to participate. Registration required.



WEST DES MOINES 2024 COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY

“Hear ye, hear ye!”

Registration for the 2024 Community Police Academy is now open!

Dates: March 07 – May 16
Thursday Evenings



To register or to get more information, please visit
www.wdm.iowa.gov/police

Volunteers needed to support Human Services

Human Services is in need of volunteers to help in their Clothing Closet and Food Pantry.

Opportunities are available Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and the first Saturday morning of the month.

Convenient WDM location in the Valley Junction neighborhood.

[To learn more or to set up a time for a brief interview and tour, please visit our website](#) or call us at 515-222-3663.





SPRING/SUMMER 2024 PROGRAM REGISTRATION

WDM RESIDENTS **MARCH 5**
NON-RESIDENTS **MARCH 12**

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8 AM | WDM.IOWA.GOV/PARKRECREG

WE ARE HIRING!
SUMMER INTERNS

- ✓ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
- ✓ NATURALIST
- ✓ RECREATION PROGRAMMER

APPLY TODAY!
WDM.IOWA.GOV/JOBS

**2024
POOL PASS
EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT
10% OFF**

PURCHASE BY MARCH 29
AT
VALLEY JUNCTION ACTIVITY CENTER: 217 5TH STREET
OR
WDM CITY HALL: 4200 MILLS CIVIC PARKWAY

WDM.IOWA.GOV/POOLS

Report it through SeeClickFix!



We need your help!

[If you see nonemergency issues the City needs to address \(unshoveled sidewalks, storm drain issues, Code violations, etc.\), you can report them by using the City's online service desk, SeeClickFix.](#) You can report them online or download the app on your Android or iPhone, making it a quick and easy way to report these issues.

Burn Awareness Week is February 4 – 10, 2024. This is a time to raise awareness of burn prevention methods and for communities to take the steps to prevent future burns.

Burn and Scald Prevention



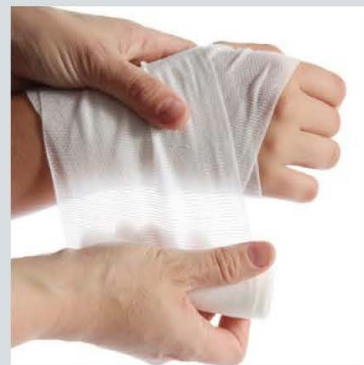
Prevent burns and scalds in the kitchen:

- Place objects so that they cannot be pulled down or knocked over.
- Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.
- Use dry oven mitts or potholders. Hot cookware can heat moisture in a potholder or hot pad, resulting in a scald burn.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove.



General first aid for burns and scalds:

- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for three to five minutes.
- Cover burn with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays or other home remedies.
- Remove all clothing, diapers, jewelry and metal from the burned area. These can hide underlying burns and retain heat, which can increase skin damage.



For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov.



Timing is everything!

Winter arrived with a vengeance in early January, with over 22 inches of snowfall recorded in less than one week in the metro!

Snow events with huge snowfall totals typically require more attention on our arterial (major) streets, and with two winter storms hitting in the span of four days (with 7+ inches of snow forecasted for each event), crews were working around the clock to keep our streets cleared!

We thank everyone for their patience as we worked to ensure your safety.

Snow removal on sidewalks is also a challenge



when winter storms occur back-to-back. [Per City Code 7-1-5: Removal of Snow and/or Ice Accumulations](#),

the owner of any property abutting a public sidewalk has twenty-four (24) hours following the **end** of the snowfall event to clear the sidewalk.

City staff will not issue violation notices until it has been more than 24 hours since the end of the last snow event. Any time there

is a new snowfall event before the end of the violation notice time period, the 24-hour period re-sets and the property owner would have 24 hours after the end of the second snowfall to clear the sidewalk.

Free Medical Clinic open on Tuesday evenings

The Valley Junction Free Medical Clinic is open on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (please check in by 7:30 p.m.) at 139 6th Street in the WDM Human Services Building.

This clinic provides basic medical care and management of chronic medical conditions to uninsured or under-insured individuals; all on-site services are provided free of charge. There is no income verification or requirements to utilize the clinic.

The clinic is a member of Free Clinics of Iowa, the largest network of free medical clinics in the state of Iowa and a donor-supported, not-for-profit organization.

Free Clinics of Iowa member clinics provide basic healthcare services through volunteer physicians and nurses. For more information, call 515-222-3660 or [email HumanServices@wdm.iowa.gov](mailto:HumanServices@wdm.iowa.gov).



2024 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

Spring Cleanup is June 3 – 7 on your regular trash collection day!

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| April 1 | Yard Waste Pickup begins on your normal trash collection day |
| April 13 | Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. West Des Moines Public Services East, 560 S. 16th Street |
| May 23 | National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Valley Junction Farmer’s Market |
| June 3-7 | Spring Cleanup – on your regular trash day. Watch for details! No appliances accepted (see June 8 event). |
| June 8 | Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off, 8 a.m. – 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services East, 560 S. 16th Street |
| September 7 | Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off, 8 a.m. – 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services East, 560 S. 16th Street |
| November 30 | Yard Waste Pickup Ends |
| Dec. 30, 2024 – Jan. 11, 2025 | Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection |

Yard Waste & Spring Cleanup events are available to all WDM residents eligible for solid waste collection.

For Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Options, visit Metro Waste Authority’s website.

For more information, [visit www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) or call WDM Public Services at (515) 222-3480.

Get a 2024 Curb It! magnet

curb it! 2024 *missed collection?* 515.244.0021

Recycling Week: GREEN LID, BLACK LID
Holiday Schedule: DELAYED TO NEXT DAY

Metro Waste Authority
www.WherItShouldGo.com 1.515.244.0021

Kick off your New Year with a new **2024 Curb It! magnet**, available at City offices. The magnet shows which week to put out your cart, as well as the holidays when collection is delayed.

Questions? [Visit www.WherItShouldGo.com](http://www.WherItShouldGo.com) or call (515) 244-0021.