



May  
2024

## West Des Moines eNewsletter

### Join us for National Public Works Week



**May 23, 2024**

**4 PM – 7 PM**

**North End of the  
Valley Junction Farmer's Market**

**400 Block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

Public Works professionals enhance the quality of life in all the communities they proudly serve. Our crews provide year-round services for our streets, sanitary and storm sewers, park maintenance, forestry issues and anything else Public Services related!

*The theme for this year's National Public Works Week recognition is "Advancing Quality of Life For All."*

Weather permitting, please plan to join us for a celebration of the Public Works employees in North America who keep our community thriving.

**We will be one block north of our usual location in Valley Junction, but you can't miss us!**

This annual event is a fun, FREE family outing with a chance to learn more about what your Public Services Department at the City of West Des Moines is all about. We'll have face-painting, a balloon artist, and a chance for kids to climb into the BIG equipment.

Please plan to join us on May 23 in Valley Junction!

*In case of inclement weather, check the City's website for a cancellation notice.*

Connect with us! [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov)





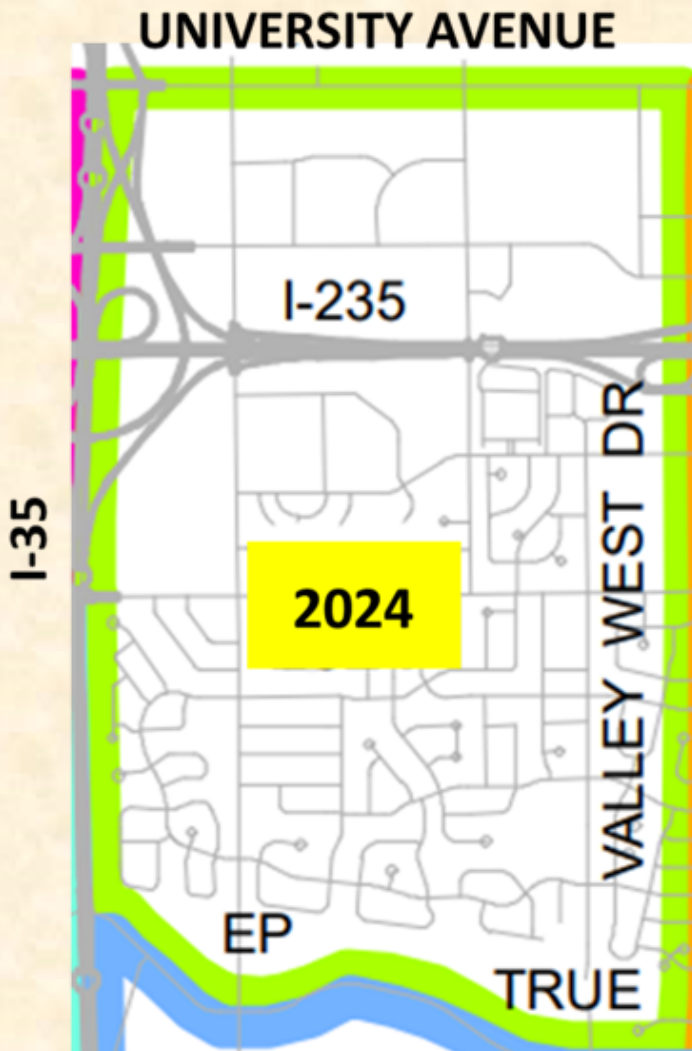
## Memorial Day Reminder ...

City Hall and most City offices will be closed on **Monday, May 27**.

Garbage collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week, with Friday's collection delayed until Saturday.



## West Des Moines Sidewalk Program



The City's annual sidewalk program allows staff the opportunity to monitor sidewalks for potential hazardous defects. Each year, a specific zone is surveyed, and the zone for the 2024 Sidewalk Program is outlined in green on this map.

The zone is examined by City staff for any sidewalk defects that fall under the following deficiencies:

1. Faulted at joint or cracked with 1"+ vertical deflection
2. Raised or sunken more than 2" in 8 feet from normal sidewalk profile
3. Improper material, i.e. asphalt or brick
4. Sidewalk is not present
5. Cross slope exceeds 1" in 1 foot

If you happen to see your sidewalk marked with a white "X," it is most likely due to one of these defects. **Notification letters will be sent in May to any property owners within this zone that have a sidewalk defect identified by City staff.**

Information will be provided in the letter on the options for repair.

# WEST DES MOINES POLICE WEEK PICNIC 2024



**Join us to honor Law Enforcement  
and the community we serve!**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**West Des Moines  
Police Department**  
250 Mills Civic Parkway

**5:00 PM Opening Ceremony**

**Picnic & Activities until 8:00 PM**

**\*No Rain Date\***

Activities include:

- WDMPD Honor Guard
- Police Vehicles
- Police K9
- WDM Fire Truck
- WDM Ambulance
- SWAT Vehicles
- Free Kids Bike Helmets
- Games & Inflatables
- FREE FOOD and more!



## Spring Cleanup is almost here

Spring Cleanup is your chance to get rid of unwanted trash that won't fit in your garbage cart or may require a large item sticker. Examples include a couch, desk, lamp or chair.

When you're considering setting an item out for Spring Cleanup, ask yourself: *Can two people lift it? Is my pile smaller than the bed of a pickup truck?*

If you answered yes to these two questions, then follow these guidelines!

### WHAT'S ACCEPTED:

Items that can be set at your curb include: Mattresses, couches, end tables, fans, toys, chairs,

doors, lamps, grills (no propane), TVs, computer monitors, and carpet (must be cut into 4' long x 18" diameter rolls).

**WHAT'S NOT ACCEPTED:** Appliances, building materials, concrete, construction and demolition waste, shingles, hazardous waste, tires, broken glass and yard waste.

**Please Note:** Appliances will be accepted at the Scrap Appli-

ance & Metal Dropoff event on June 8.

[Learn more at www.WhereltShouldGo.com/SpringCleanup.](http://www.WhereltShouldGo.com/SpringCleanup)



## Traci Glass selected as new WDM Library Director



Traci Glass has been selected as the new Director of the West Des Moines Public Library. She comes by way of the Lincoln City Libraries system in Lincoln, Nebraska

and was the unanimous choice after a months-long, nationwide search to fill the position.

Traci has worked in public libraries for over 25 years in systems around the country, including Arizona, Oregon, Tennessee, and Nebraska.

After earning her Master's Degree in Information and Library Sciences from The University

of Arizona, Traci spent years moving up the ranks as a Youth Services Librarian, Youth Services Manager, Teen Services Coordinator, Information Services Administrator, and then Assistant Director.

In her latest position as Assistant Director of Lincoln City Libraries, she supervised over 100 employees while overseeing library operations for all eight branch locations and their bookmobile.

She will begin her new role on May 13, 2024.

Plans for a public welcome event are in the works - more details will be announced soon.

# 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



## Construction Updates



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

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

Just scroll down to the Engineering Services section to view our videos.

8th Street & Clegg Road, Flying North

8th Street Reconstruction  
City of West Des Moines, Iowa  
288 subscribers

## Public art sensory wall unveiled at Raccoon River Park

City of West Des Moines officials and members of the WDM Public Arts Advisory Commission unveiled a new sensory wall at Raccoon River Park playground.

The unveiling, which was held during *Autism Acceptance Month*, marks the completion of the City's new inclusive playground.

Belgian-American artist Hilde DeBruyne worked with The Least of These Foundation to encourage individuals with autism to incorporate their ideas into the creation of the blue tiles that adorn the wall. The Foundation is operated by Kunzler Studios and Gallery, located at 324 5th Street in West Des Moines.

DeBruyne is based in Iowa, and excels in art and design in clay, metal and bronze. The West Des Moines Public Arts Advisory Commission and the Raccoon River Park Playground Public Art Work Group focused on ensuring the sensory wall would be a playful and inclusive addition to the park. The 14' wide by 8' tall sensory wall was inspired by natural elements of the park and features tactile elements such as marbles, clay tiles, beach pebbles, rope, acrylic and driftwood.

[For more information about this impressive piece of artwork, visit the City's website.](#)



Artist Hilde DeBruyne stands in front of the City's new Sensory Wall that she designed for the new inclusive Playground at Raccoon River Park.

## Community Compliance Corner



Spring is definitely here, based on the greening of lawns and how tall the grass is already. Time to get out those mowers! City Code 4-4-2:A stipulates that grass and weeds are not allowed to grow higher than ten inches (10"). Keeping your lawn trimmed to an acceptable height not only helps to keep West Des Moines beautiful, but it also helps mitigate resting places for mosquitos to breed.

## Let us help with your Spring lawn care!

This Spring, make the most of your lawn care routine with **Soil Quality Restoration (SQR)**. If you're already aerating, consider taking it a step further with SQR using cost-share dollars. It's an affordable way to enhance your soil and achieve a healthier, greener lawn.

And, with our Stormwater Assistance Program (SWAP), you can amplify the benefits. SWAP offers a generous cost-share of 50%, covering up to \$1,500. This means your commitment to a vibrant lawn is not only environmentally conscious but also budget-friendly. Explore the benefits of SWAP's SQR rebate and transform your urban yard into a thriving green space this Spring!

[Apply for the Stormwater Assistance Program today at https://www.wdm.iowa.gov/swap.](https://www.wdm.iowa.gov/swap)





## Summer Reading at the WDM Library: May 20–July 27, 2024

Our annual Summer Reading Club is back and bigger than ever this year! Everyone who registers (yes, adults, too!) will get an exclusive WDM Library Summer Reading sticker. Registration opens on May 20. [You'll track your reading through the handy Beanstack app](#) or with paper trackers handed out at the Children's Desk. Readers of any age who log more than 30 reading days will win exciting prizes at the end of the summer! [Learn more at wdmlibrary.org/summer](http://wdmlibrary.org/summer).

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

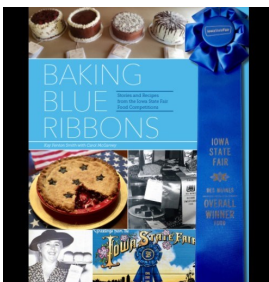
**Reminder: The library will be closed on Sunday, May 12, for Mother's Day as well as Sunday, May 26, and Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.**



### Forest Bathing 101

Tuesday, May 7 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Adults)

Have you heard of Shinrin-yoku: the Japanese Art of Forest Bathing? If you'd like to learn what it's all about, join us for a one-hour presentation from WDM's own Certified Nature + Forest Therapy Guide, Brandy Case Haub. No registration.



### Baking Blue Ribbons: Stories, Recipes and more about the Iowa State Fair Food Competitions

Thursday, May 30 - 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Adults)

Kay Fenton Smith and Carol McGarvey, the authors of *Baking Blue Ribbons*, will talk about their book and what makes the Iowa State Fair Food Department #1 in the nation. No registration.



### Final Friday Fiber Club

Friday, May 31 - 10:00 - 11:30 AM (Adults)

All fiber artists are invited to join us for Final Friday Fiber Club, an informal opportunity to get together with other fiber artists to make new friends while creating your own handmade masterpieces. Registration required.



# THEIR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS



## PICK UP YOUR DOG'S WASTE

Applicable at the Dog Park, any West Des Moines park, or City property. Doo your duty!



## Reduced rate pool passes now available

Reduced rate season pool passes are available through WDM Human Services for income-eligible residents of West Des Moines.

The reduced rate is \$40 for the first household member plus \$10 for each additional person.

The passes allow admittance to the following: Holiday Park Aquatic Center, Valley View Aquatic Center, and Clive Aquatic Center.

Please call 515-222-3660 to learn more or [visit our website](#).



## Where can I get a Compost It! Cart or renewal stickers?

### Please Note:

Compost It! Cart purchases are now exclusively handled through Metro Waste Authority.

*This means Public Services will no longer be selling Compost It! carts.*

[You may request a cart through MWA by visiting their website](#) or by calling (515) 244-0021.



[Renewal stickers for residents already enrolled in the Compost It! Program are still](#)

[available for purchase online](#) or at Public Services West (8850 Grand Avenue) and City Hall (4200 Mills Civic Parkway) during regular business hours. The cost of a renewal subscription is \$122.00.

## Mosquito time in Iowa



If mosquito populations are elevated, the West Des Moines Public Services Department will spray for mosquitos in various City parks, weather permitting, starting the evening hours of Tuesday, May 21, through Friday, May 24.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Services Department at 515-222-3480.

## Did you know?

You don't have to wait until the annual Spring Cleanup event in June to get rid of that old TV or monitor collecting dust in your garage!

Residents participating in City-provided solid waste collection may dispose of TVs and monitors of any type by putting them at the curb by 6 AM on their normal collection day.

All you need is the appropriate large and extra item sticker(s)!

[Visit the Extra Trash & Large Item page on the Metro Waste Authority website for complete details on the large/extra item curbside pick-up program.](#)

\*The size and weight of TVs varies greatly; call MWA at (515) 244-0021 to confirm how many stickers are needed based on the size of TV you want to dispose of.



# Electrical Fire Safety



Follow these electrical safety tips to help keep your home fire-safe.



## Appliances

- Always plug major appliances, like refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers, directly into a wall outlet.
- Never use an extension cord with a major appliance — it can easily overheat and start a fire.
- Always plug small appliances directly into a wall outlet.
- Unplug small appliances when you are not using them.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- Check electrical cords on appliances often. Replace cracked, damaged and loose electrical cords. Do not try to repair them.



## Outlets

- Do not overload wall outlets.
- Insert plugs fully into sockets.
- Never force a three-prong cord into a two-slot outlet.
- Install tamper-resistant electrical outlets if you have young children.



## Extension Cords, Power Strips and Surge Protectors

- Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away.
- Use extension cords for temporary purposes only.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug.
- Do not overload power strips.
- Use power strips that have internal overload protection.

**Make sure all electrical work in your home is done by a qualified electrician!**

For more information and free resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach)

U.S. Fire  
Administration



FEMA

