



July  
2024

## West Des Moines eNewsletter



### Independence Day in WDM!



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

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

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

The City also will have a **Fireworks Display at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, 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. No parking is allowed at Furry Friends Refuge, 3503 Mills Civic Parkway.

City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Thursday, 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](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov)



## A portion of Grand Avenue to close on July 13 & 14

The City of West Des Moines will be hosting the USA Triathlon Youth and Junior National Championships at Raccoon River Park on Saturday, July 13, and Sunday, July 14. Both days of this event will involve closures of Grand Avenue.

### On Friday, July 12

- ◆ Raccoon River Park will remain open, but swim, bike, and run previews will be taking place throughout the park.
- ◆ The beach will remain open, but the eastern portion of the beach will be reserved for swim preview and course setup; public will have access to the western portion of the beach.
- ◆ Grand Avenue will remain open, but a bike preview of the course will be held on Grand Avenue on this day with West Des Moines Police Department assistance.

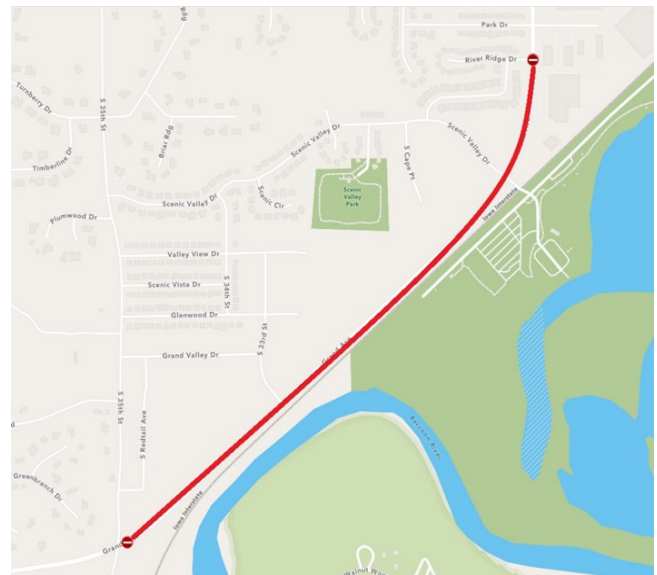
### On Saturday, July 13, and Sunday, July 14

- ◆ **Grand Avenue will be closed from approximately 5:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from River Ridge Drive to South 35th Street. (See map).**
- ◆ Raccoon River Park main entrance will be closed from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (access into the park will be via South 11th Street on the east side of the park).

- ◆ 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 for the duration of the triathlon; the Boathouse will operate from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. both days.

[If you have any questions, email Ryan Jacobson in the City Clerk's Office](mailto:ryan.jacobson@wdm.iowa.gov) or give him a call at (515) 222-3603.

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



Parks and Recreation enthusiasts are invited to join the Friends of WDM Parks and Recreation, a group that supports the development and enhancement of public parks, facilities and recreation programs in West Des Moines!

To become a member, visit the Friends website at [www.wdm.iowa.gov/FriendsofWDMPR](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/FriendsofWDMPR).



# Thank you, Public Services!



THANK YOU to our dedicated Public Services crews who worked so tirelessly to pick up all the debris left from the storms that blew through the area in late May!

This type of operation takes a lot of coordination since it involves several pieces of equipment per crew, along with contracted hauling services. Each crew consisted of a rotation of 2-3 dump trucks, a loader or grapple attachment to pick up the large piles of branches, and several operators collecting the remaining small pieces of debris.

If you have any remaining leaves or branches, please use Metro Waste Authority's Compost It! Program for curbside collection. [To learn more about yard waste disposal, visit whereshouldgo.com](https://www.whereshouldgo.com) or call MWA at (515) 244-0021.







A UNIQUE SUMMER PROGRAM THAT FOSTERS LASTING MEMORIES & NEW FRIENDSHIPS FOR YOUR CHILD BEFORE ENTERING 7TH GRADE

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE AT STILWELL WEEK 1 & WEEK 3 SIGN UP TODAY!

WDM.IOWA.GOV/PARKRECREG



# 2024 AQUATIC CENTER PASSES \*50% OFF

AVAILABLE AT:  
WDM CITY HALL,  
VALLEY JUNCTION ACTIVITY CENTER  
VALLEY VIEW AQUATIC CENTER  
HOLIDAY AQUATIC CENTER  
\*Starts July 15th

WDM.IOWA.GOV/POOLS

## AQUATIC CENTER FAMILY NIGHTS

HOLIDAY AQUATIC CENTER  
FRIDAYS 6:30 - 8 PM  
\$15 PER FAMILY

VALLEY VIEW AQUATIC CENTER  
SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 8 PM  
\$15 PER FAMILY

VISIT WDM.IOWA.GOV/POOLS FOR MORE INFORMATION



Mrs. Doubtfire



FREE MOVIE SERIES



7/19



FREE TO JOIN



# WEST DES MOINES RUN CLUB

EVERYONE WELCOME SIGN UP TODAY



SCAN ME

## WEEKLY RUNS

Wednesdays 6 pm @ WDM City Hall  
North Patio by Campus Pond  
Saturdays 7 am @ Raccoon River Park  
Boathouse Parking Lot

Learn more at [wdm.iowa.gov/WDMRC](http://wdm.iowa.gov/WDMRC)

## Mosquito control and 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 abatement 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. Mosquito spraying does create health concerns for some residents, however, the City always sends media releases prior to spraying.

The CDC recommends that if you're outside, you should use repellent with DEET and wear long-sleeved clothing to prevent mosquito bites. Additional tips to control mosquitos include:

### 1. No standing water

- Remove buckets, empty flower pots 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.

### 2. Plant mosquito-repelling plants

- Mosquitos are naturally repelled by many flowers, herbs and plants such as Marigolds, Catnip, Horsemint and Ageratum.

### 3. Keep grass short because this helps limit resting places for mosquitos to breed.

### 4. Use yellow "bug" bulbs in outdoor light fixtures.

*Please note: If mosquito populations are elevated, the West Des Moines Public Services Department will be spraying for mosquitos in various City parks, weather permitting, starting the evening hours of Sunday, June 30, through Wednesday, July 3. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Public Services Department at (515) 222-3480.*

## Use our service desk to report issues



**SeeClickFix**

SeeClickFix is our City Service Desk you can use to report non-emergency issues, such as potholes, graffiti, traffic signal issues, code violations, etc.

Simply download the app on your Android or iPhone. You can also access SeeClickFix on the City's website. Just look for a link on the bottom of each page on our website at [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov).



## What should I do if a solicitor knocks on my door?

Spring and summer are the most popular seasons for solicitors to conduct business door-to-door.

**City Code, Title 3, Chapter 7, Section 3, states: “No solicitor shall engage in business in the city without having first obtained a license.”**

Solicitors are required to wear their license on a lanyard around their neck. If you can't see it, it is recommended that you ask to see their permit (which is laminated, and about 3-inches wide and 4-inches tall). Each permit includes the City logo, a photo of the solicitor, some information about them, and a signature from the City Clerk.

**What should I do if a solicitor comes to my door without a City-issued permit?** Any issues regarding solicitors should be reported as soon as possible to the non-emergency number for Westcom dispatch at

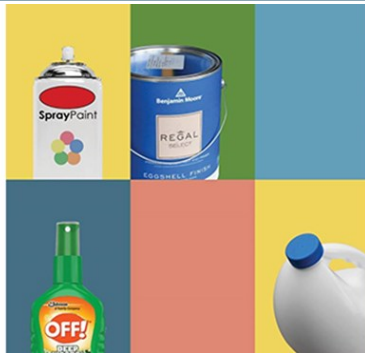
(515) 222-3321. If you are able to call right away and provide a description of the person and the direction you saw them heading after they left your home, this will assist the Police Department in finding them so they can inform them of the City's solicitor laws. The same advice also applies to cases where a licensed solicitor is using overly aggressive sales tactics or refusing to leave your property after being asked to do so.

**Does everyone going door-to-door need a solicitor permit from the City?**

No. Some groups of people don't meet the definition of a solicitor, so they don't need a solicitor permit. These groups include political campaigns, religious organizations, or fundraisers for schools or other community groups. Questions? Call the City Clerk's office at (515) 222-3600.



**STOP  
BY THE  
SWAP SHOP!**



Spending your summer working on some home improvement projects?

If you're looking for paint, stain, household cleaners, or more, keep Metro Waste Authority's Swap Shop in mind.

Don't let the name fool you – you don't have to swap to shop! At the Swap Shop, you can find partially used products free of charge. Because the space is stocked with usable material

dropped off by metro residents, inventory changes daily. However, items typically include:

- Brake fluid
- Drain cleaner
- Garden products
- Pool chemicals
- Paints and stains
- Sanitizers
- Paint strippers and thinners

The Swap Shop is open from 8 AM – 5 PM, Tuesday through Friday, as well as from 8 AM – Noon on the first and third Saturday each month at Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off in Bondurant.

**[For more information, visit MWA's website](#) or call (515) 244-0021.**

# STARK RAVING MADGE



SUNDAY, JUL 7 | 6 P.M.



# MAJOR BLUES AND THE MUGSHOTS



SUNDAY, JUL 14 | 6 P.M.



# Summer Sundaze

at the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater



SUNDAY, JUL 21 | 6 P.M.

Sweet Magnolia  
Brass Band



SUNDAY, JUL 28 | 6 P.M.

KELSIE  
JAMES

Iowa's Classic  
Concessions



# Raccoon River Palooza!

In June, Public Services joined Parks & Recreation, Police, EMS and the Fire Department for the annual Raccoon River Palooza (formerly Park Palooza), a family-friendly kickoff to summer!

Public Services had some BIG equipment for the kids to climb into (and maybe even honk the horn a time or two). Thank you to everyone who joined us, and thanks to our partner, the WDM Chamber of Commerce, for making this a great event. *See you next year!*



## 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.



## 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.

First is our family-friendly **Summer Finale**, hosted on Saturday, July 27, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This year's finale celebrates all things comics, graphic novels, and heroes of all kinds. Enjoy indoor and outdoor hero-themed activities and fun, no registration required. That evening, July 27, at 6:30 PM, is the adults' turn to celebrate! **The Adult Summer Reading Party: The Best Trivia Game Ever** is part trivia game, part game show, all fun! Prizes and refreshments will also be provided. The Adult Summer Reading Party will be open to all adults who complete the Summer Reading Challenge. Please do register for the adult party.



See Upcoming Event Highlights below. **Registration for July events opens at 9:00 AM on July 1.**



### **The British Invasion!**

*Tuesday, July 9 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM (All Ages)*

The term "British Invasion" represented the fast-paced rise to fame and popularity of UK-based bands in the United States. Joey Leon and his band highlights the phenomenon of these British bands and how they reshaped the landscape of not only American music, but of pop culture as well. No registration.



### **Tote Decorating & Stencil-Making for Teens**

*Wednesday, July 10 - 2:00 - 4:30 PM (Grades 6-12)*

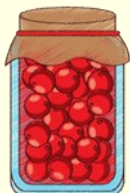
Join us in the Community Room to design your own stencils and decorate a tote bag to take home! Registration required.



### **Brick by Brick: Building Home Knowledge - Selling Your Home**

*Monday, July 22 or July 29 - 6:30 - 8:30 PM (Adults)*

Are you a first-time homebuyer and feeling overwhelmed by how much information is out there? Maybe you have a house and want to sell, but don't know what steps to take or how to get the best price. Please join us for a series of programs to learn the ins-and-outs of real estate! No registration.



### **Preserve The Taste of Summer 101**

*Tuesday, July 30 - 6:00 – 7:30 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.

## 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 13.

Registration begins July 8 and continues through August 8. Proof of address and income verification is required. Must be a resident of West Des Moines. [Register on our website.](#)

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

Since Human Services will be holding its annual

school supply distribution for qualifying low-income WDM residents on August 13, they need your help! 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 12 or [supplies may be ordered from their Amazon Supply List and shipped directly.](#)

[To learn more about the school supply drive, visit \[www.wdm.iowa.gov/SchoolSupplyDrive\]\(http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/SchoolSupplyDrive\).](#)

[You also may contact Human Services](#) or call (515) 222-3663.



## English Language Learner (ELL) classes resume this fall

English Language Learner (ELL) classes will resume this fall at West Des Moines 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 (e.g., spelling, vocabulary, verb tense, grammar). Students are divided into beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. The level of instruction is determined by assessment scores. The classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon in ten-week sessions. The next session begins on September 10th.

On-site childcare is available for ages two years to pre-kindergarten. Volunteer opportunities available. Call (515) 222-3663 for more information, or [register online for ELL classes](#).





# 2024 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

→ 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 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.

## DON'T POO AND RUN



Please  
clean up  
after your  
dog.



Whether you're walking your dog in a park, on a trail or in your neighborhood, please remember to do your duty!

By working together, we can keep West Des Moines beautiful.



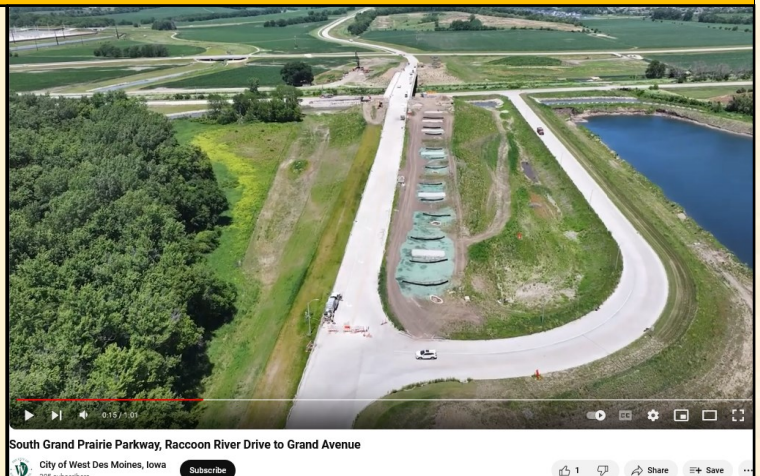
## Construction Updates



[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.



South Grand Prairie Parkway, Raccoon River Drive to Grand Avenue  
City of West Des Moines, Iowa  
305 subscribers  
Subscribe  
1 Like  
Share  
Save