



August
2024

West Des Moines eNewsletter

Pet safety tips from the WDM Fire Department

Plan ahead to keep your pets and your home safe!

Did you know that about 1,000 home fires are started accidentally by pets each year in the United States?

The WDM Fire Department would like you to think about how you can take steps to prevent your pets from accidentally starting a fire and how to keep them safe in case of a fire.

Extinguish Open Flames – Pets are generally curious and will investigate cooking appliances, candles, or even a fire in your fireplace. Ensure your pet is not left unattended around an open flame and make sure to thoroughly extinguish any open flame before leaving your home.

Pet Proof the Home – Learn the habits of your pets. Do they chew on cords, run across the counters, etc.

Take a walk around your home and look for areas where pets might start fires inadvertently, such as the stove knobs, loose wires, candles, and other potential hazards.

Secure Young Pets – Especially with young puppies, keep them confined away from potential fire-starting hazards when you are away from home.



Keep Pets Near Entrances – When leaving pets home alone, keep them in areas or rooms near entrances where firefighters can easily find them.

Practice Your Evacuation Plan with Pets – Discuss your family evacuation plan and designate someone to carry out the pets. Keep collars and leashes at the ready in case you must evacuate quickly with your pet. Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

Smart 9-1-1 – [Create your own safety profile with Smart 9-1-1 and add your pets to the profile](#) so we have that information before we reach your home.

Connect with us! www.wdm.iowa.gov



Another great Independence Day parade in WDM



**Thank you to everyone who shared
a fun evening with us!**



Community Compliance Corner

City Code provides guidelines for maintaining several aspects of home ownership. Check out these 30-second informational videos from Val!

[Learn tips about Grass & Weeds](#)

[Find out more about Nuisance Trees](#)

Thank you for being a good neighbor and helping to keep West Des Moines beautiful!



Sign up for the latest West Des Moines news!



Did you know you can have notices about City activities, jobs, news releases, meetings, construction updates and much more sent directly to your inbox?

All you have to do is sign up for **eUpdates** and select the items you're interested in receiving!

Just visit our website at www.wdm.iowa.gov and hover over "I WANT TO..." in the top horizontal dark green menu bar.

Then go to "Sign up for ..." and click on **eUpdates**, enter your name and email address, and select the items you want to receive.

Make sure to confirm your choices when the system sends you a confirmation email. If you don't, your updates won't be delivered to your inbox.

And remember, you can change your preferences or opt out at any time!

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 at the bottom of each page.

Back to school safety



The safety of our children walking to and from school is our top priority! With 59 school crossings that serve 15 schools within

the City of West Des Moines, cooperation among parents, students, motorists, schools, and City departments is important and necessary.

[Visit our website and search 'School Crossing Safety' to learn how each group is responsible for maintaining safe routes to school for children.](#)



Horticulture highlights in WDM



It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of summer already! As fall approaches, check out the beautiful blooms throughout the planters and landscape beds located at various City facilities and in Valley Junction. These designs are the work of our talented Horticulturist, Chris Harmeyer.

The Model Trains Display at the WDM Library is back!

Were you as sad as we were when we had to cancel the Model Trains Display from DesMoiNTrak back in January? Well, we have great news to share ... they'll be back at the beginning of August!

Stop by the West Des Moines Library from 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM on Friday, August 2, and 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Saturday, August 3, to see DesMoiNTrak's N-scale working layout.

This event is open to adults and children of all ages. Make sure to stop by the Children's Department for a fun train craft before you leave! No registration needed. [RSVP on Facebook](#).



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



A Journey with the Blues: Music from Matt Woods and Rob Lumbard

Saturday, August 10 - 1:00 - 2:00 PM (All Ages)

The Library is very happy to welcome two great musicians, Matt Woods and Rob Lumbard, for a great afternoon of jazz & blues. No registration.



Brick by Brick: Building Home Knowledge - Buying a Home

Tuesday, August 13 or Thursday, August 29 - 6:30 - 8:00 PM (Adults)

Are you a first-time homebuyer and feeling overwhelmed by how much information is out there? Maybe you have a house 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.



Brew Your Own Kombucha

Wednesday, August 14 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Adults)

Come learn how to home-brew your own kombucha! In this workshop, Carissa Thoma of Down to Earth Living will explain the process, ingredients, flavoring, health benefits and safety tips. Registration required.



Secret Iowa: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure!

Monday, August 26 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Adults)

We welcome you to join us for a presentation from author Megan Bannister, who wrote *Secret Iowa: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*, which features 84 offbeat places around our wonderful state. No registration.

Save the date for Sunday Supper!



Join the WDM Human Services Friends Foundation on **September 29** at Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar for the 13th Annual “Sunday Supper In Our Town” fundraising event to raise dollars to assist our low-income, elderly and disabled neighbors.

Share a delicious meal, great conversation and a wonderful evening of giving back to the community. Tickets are \$150 each; sponsorships begin at \$500. [Please email FriendsOfWDMHS@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfWDMHS@gmail.com) [for more information.](#)

PET ALERT

CAR TEMPERATURE SAFETY CHART

Elapsed Minutes	Outside Air Temperature					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0	70	75	80	85	90	95
10	89	94	99	104	109	114
20	99	104	109	114	119	124
30	104	109	114	119	124	129
40	108	113	118	123	128	133
50	111	116	121	126	131	136
60	113	118	123	128	133	138
More Than 1 Hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

- Never leave your pet in a vehicle, even for a few minutes.
- The temperature inside a parked car may hit 100 degrees within minutes, so just a “10-minute” can be fatal to your pet.
- Opening the windows a few inches doesn't provide enough cooling air to your pet.
- If you're running errands, leave your pet at home.
- If traveling, make your pit stops at places where your pet can go out of the vehicle and remain in a cool spot and has access to water.



All pet owners must be aware of the dangers of leaving pets in vehicles! Not only can a hot car lead to heatstroke and dehydration, but it can also have serious legal repercussions.

Pets are unable to regulate body temperature like humans and are highly susceptible to heat-related illnesses when exposed to high temperatures. If the breeze is not cool enough and it's hot outside, pets may struggle to maintain their temperature, putting them at risk of serious health issues and even death.

It is essential for pet owners to understand criminal charges may be brought against anyone whose pets suffer or pass away due to being left in a hot vehicle. It is your duty to ensure the safety and well-being of your animal companions. Always provide pets with access to shade, water, and a cool environment during hot weather. Remember, your pets depend on you for their safety and happiness!

Labor Day preparations



If mosquito populations are elevated, the Public Services Department will be out spraying various City parks in preparation for Labor Day gatherings. Spraying will occur, weather permitting, during the evening hours of August 27 through August 30.

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



School supply distribution for qualifying households

Human Services will be holding a school supply distribution for qualifying, low-income households on August 13. **Registration is now open 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 Human Services. No appointment necessary. Walk-ins welcome on Tuesday evenings between 7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Check-in by 7:30 p.m.

School Supply Donations Needed

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 \[may email Human Services\]\(#\) 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 lev-

els. 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.

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!



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.



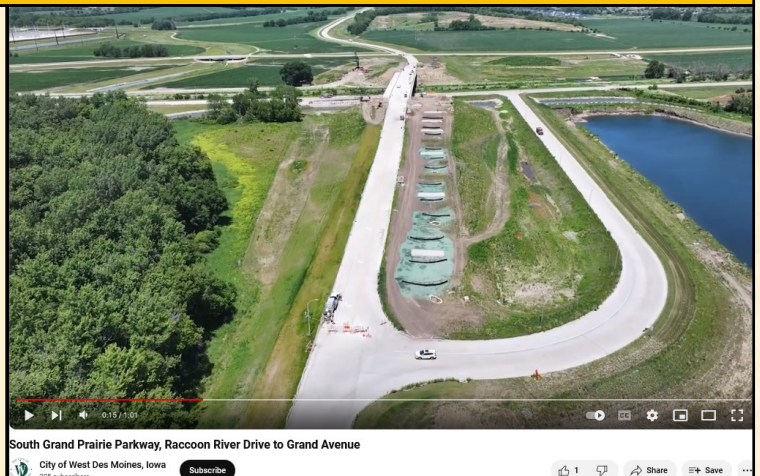
Construction Updates



[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

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