



September
2024

West Des Moines eNewsletter

Athene Pedestrian Bridge to open this fall



Raccoon River Pedestrian Bridge



City of West Des Moines, Iowa
311 subscribers

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We're making remarkable progress on the Athene Pedestrian Bridge that will connect Raccoon River Park and Walnut Woods State Park! This amazing Five Waters Project also allows for the expansion of West Des Moines' trail system south of the river, including a future connection to the Great Western Trail.

[View the latest drone video taken by our Engineering Department.](#) Work is expected to be completed this fall, and we can't wait to make this dream come true!

Connect with us! www.wdm.iowa.gov





Labor day : City Hall and most City offices will be closed on **Monday, September 2**, for the holiday. Garbage collection will be delayed one day for the rest of the week, with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

Visit us at the Children's Museum Touch-A-Truck event

The Des Moines Children's Museum, located in Valley West Mall, is holding their annual **Touch-A-Truck** event on **Saturday, September 7, 2024**, from **9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the Valley West Mall parking lot.

This **FREE** community event showcases local businesses and their trucks. The event also helps the public learn about the Children's Museum.



The first hour will be a dedicated *sensory friendly time*, where trucks will keep their lights off and horns & sirens will be kept to a minimum. Sunglasses, noise canceling headphones, and a calming tent will be provided throughout the event.

Our Public Services staff will be there with equipment for kids to explore, so **come out and see us!**

School supply distribution helps more than 400 kids

Thank you to all the individuals, organizations and businesses who donated supplies for the annual school supply distribution at West Des Moines Human Services.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped with the set-up and distribution of supplies.

More than 400 children will be proudly wearing their backpacks filled with the supplies they need to start this school year off on the right foot!



Encountering a bobcat: Tips to stay safe & protect your pets

In recent months, West Des Moines Neighborhood Services Specialists have received reports of bobcat sightings around the city, sparking concerns among residents about encounters with these animals.

With their increasing presence in urban and suburban environments, it's important for people to be informed about what to do when they come across a bobcat and how to safeguard their pets from potential harm.

Bobcats are typically shy and avoid human contact. However, they may wander into residential areas in search of food, water, or shelter. If you happen to encounter a bobcat, here are some essential tips to ensure your safety and the safety of your pets:

1. Stay Calm and Back Away Slowly: If you spot a bobcat, the best course of action is to remain calm and avoid sudden movements. Back away slowly while maintaining eye contact with the animal. Do not run, as this may trigger the bobcat's instinct to chase.

2. Do Not Approach or Feed the Bobcat: It's crucial to keep a safe distance and never attempt to approach or feed it. Feeding wild animals can make them comfortable with humans, leading to potential conflicts in the future.

3. Protect Your Pets: When in bobcat territory, keep your pets indoors or supervised when outside. It's also a good idea to keep your pets

up-to-date on their vaccinations and consider installing motion-activated lights or fencing to deter wild animals from your property.

4. Make Noise: If a bobcat lingers near your home or exhibits bold behavior, you can try to scare it away by making loud noises, such as shouting. This can help reinforce the bobcat's natural fear of humans.

5. Contact Local Authorities: If you encounter a bobcat that appears sick or injured, contact Neighborhood Services at (515) 222-3364 or the [Iowa DNR for assistance](#). Professionals can assess the situation and take appropriate action.

As our communities continue to expand into natural habitats,

human-wildlife interactions are becoming more common. By understanding how to respond to encounters with bobcats and taking proactive measures to protect our pets, we can coexist with these creatures in a safe and responsible manner.

Remember, the key to ensuring the safety of both humans and wildlife lies in mutual respect and responsible behavior.

Stay informed, stay vigilant, and together, we can create harmonious relationships with the natural world around us.





Illumifest

a Fall Festival of light

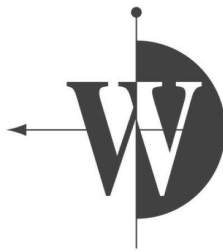
PRESENTED BY



9.14.24

WDM CITY CAMPUS

4-9 PM



THE CITY OF
West Des Moines.

SPONSORED BY

SCHEELS



Jamie Hurd Amphitheater

4PM

Food Vendors Open

Various Fees Apply

4-7PM

City Campus

FREE Inflatables & Games

FREE Paper Lantern Painting

Cirque Wonderland Aerial Demos

Des Moines Breakerz Demos

Touch-a-Truck

Community Organizations Expo

FREE Mini-Train Rides

FREE Balloon Creations

FREE Face Painting

On-site Balloon Ride Reservations Begin

5:30PM

City Hall Front Lawn

FREE Community BINGO

5:45PM

FREE Chinese Cultural Performances

6:30PM

Jamie Hurd Amphitheater

FREE Hot Air Balloon Rides

Wind conditions permitting

Up to 3 people per ride; must be +42" tall

6:30PM

City Hall Front Lawn

7PM

FREE Faculty Lounge Band Concert

Jamie Hurd Amphitheater

WDM.IOWA.GOV/ILLUMIFEST

Celebrate the 24-Hour Kiosk's new look (and get free ice cream!)

Wednesday, September 25
4:30 – 6:30 PM



Visit us at the WDM Library 24-Hour Kiosk in Valley Junction to celebrate its new look on Wednesday, September 25, between 4:30 – 6:30 PM!

Each attendee will get **free ice cream** and an opportunity to learn more about the kiosk.

Our Words on Wheels book truck will also be in attendance.

No registration needed.

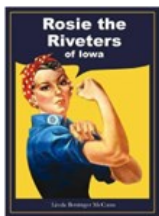
Please enter the parking lot behind the Valley Junction Activity Center (off 4th Street) to locate our party! The Kiosk's map location is 217 5th Street, WDM.

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



Vote Smart: Non-Partisan Voter Education for All
Thursday, September 5 - 7:00 - 8:00 PM (Adults)

Representatives from Vote Smart will explain how to use their extensive free, non-partisan website to look up candidates and elected officials – including how they voted on issues and who supports them. No registration.



Rosie the Riveters of Iowa
Saturday, September 14 - 2:00 - 3:00 PM (Adults)

Author Linda Betsinger McCann will share about her research and newest book, *Rosie the Riveters of Iowa*. She'll share how she started writing books about Iowa history, as well as the research that went into this newest book. No registration.



Amphitheater Readers

Friday, September 27 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM (All ages) / Hosted at the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater

Get ready for a magical night of stories at Amphitheater Readers! Dive into your favorite tales with read-aloud sessions on stage or find a cozy spot on the grass for some quiet reading time. Don't forget your blanket and flashlight! No registration.



Plant Swap: Fall Bulbs and Perennials

Saturday, September 28 - 2:00 – 5:00 PM (Adults)

Bring your potted or bagged plants and bulbs to the Community Room and meet other local gardeners to browse and swap or just set your plants on the designated tables for trade. No registration.

Community Compliance Corner

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

[Learn about inoperable vehicles](#)

[Learn about junk & debris](#)

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



With all the cool, new packaging these days, knowing what's actually recyclable can feel confusing.

[To make sure you're recycling the right things, get back to basics by watching this short video!](#)

If you're still in doubt about whether an item is recyclable, call Metro Waste Authority at (515) 244-0021.

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!

Illicit discharge reminders: Draining pools and spas



This time of year is often when homeowners start winterizing their outdoor pools and

spas. To protect the quality of water entering nearby ponds, rivers, and streams, it's important to **NOT** discharge pool or spa water into our storm sewer system.

Chlorine and other chemicals in pool and spa water can be hazardous to humans and deadly for freshwater aquatic life. Follow these tips when it's time to empty your pool or spa:

- Don't drain pool and spa water into street, gutter, intakes, storm drains or waterways.
- **Pool and spa water can be discharged to the sanitary sewer system if done per City requirements and guidelines.**
- If unable to drain to the sanitary sewer, before draining a pool or spa, let the water sit *for at least seven days* without adding salt, chlorine, or other chemicals.

- If water is drained on the ground, chlorine levels need to be below 0.1 mg/L and the pH is to be between 6.5 and 8.5 before draining.
- If water is drained on the ground, drain across at least 15 feet of grass (not concrete) to allow any remaining chemicals to dissipate before reaching the storm drain.
- Keep the water flow low, about 12 gallons per minute, to prevent erosion of soil and landscaping.
- **If proper steps are not taken, draining pool and spa water to a storm sewer system or waterway is considered an illicit discharge and subject to penalties in certain situations per Iowa DNR and U.S. EPA regulations.**

Questions? Call the WDM Engineer Services Department at (515) 222-3475.

Scrap Appliance/Metal Dropoff Event



Saturday, September 7, 2024
8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon)
Public Services East Facility
560 South 16th Street

[Find out what's accepted by visiting our website!](#)

Sunday Supper Fundraiser on Sept. 29

Join the West Des Moines 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. [Purchase tickets for the event.](#)

For more information, please email: FriendsOfWDMHS@gmail.com.

WDM COPS CARE

Pack the Patrol Car Event

The West Des Moines Police Department is looking for your help to pack a patrol car full with personal supplies.

All donations will go to the
West Des Moines Human Services Personals Pantry.

**WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024
7 AM TO 7 PM**

**WHERE: WEST DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT
250 MILLS CIVIC PKWY, WEST DES MOINES**



NEEDED ITEMS

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Floss
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Soap
- Disposable Razors
- Facial Tissue
- Laundry Detergent
- Shaving Cream
- Ziploc Bags
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Brushes & Combs
- Lotion
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers & Pull-Ups
- Diaper Wipes

2024 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

→ September 7	<u>Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off</u> , 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.



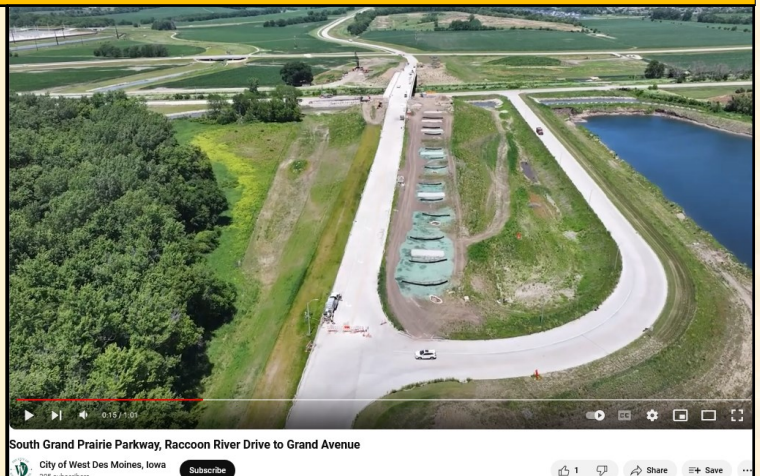
Construction Updates



[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
1 Like, Share, Save



Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!™

How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

7 steps to practicing your escape plan

1



Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.

2



Find two ways out of every room.

3




Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.

4




Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.

5



Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.

6



Practice your drill with everyone in the home.

7



Get outside to your meeting place.

For more information about escape planning, visit:
www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.

