



October  
2024

## West Des Moines eNewsletter

# Fire Prevention Week: October 6 – 12!

The WDM Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, **"Smoke**

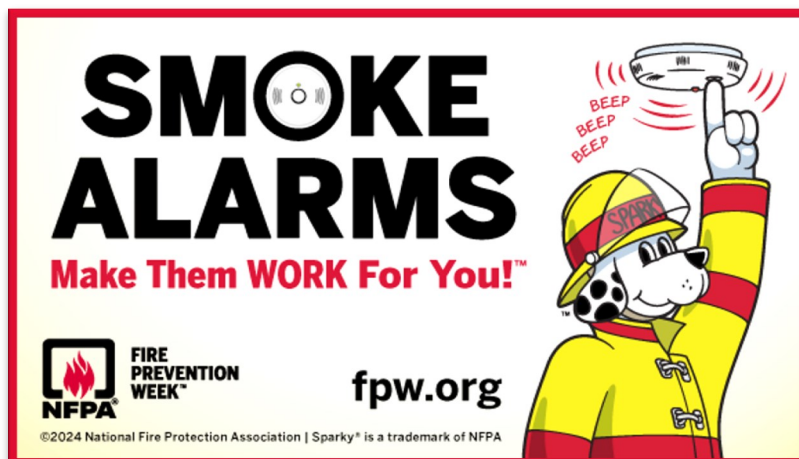
**Alarms: Make Them Work For You."** The campaign works to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

According to NFPA, smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 percent). Meanwhile, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms serve as the first line of defense in a home fire, but they need to be working in order to protect people.

There are simple but critical steps everyone can take to make sure their homes have smoke alarms in all the needed locations and that they're working properly.

The West Des Moines Fire Department offers these key smoke alarm safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries once a year.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



For more information, contact the West Des Moines Fire Department at (515) 222-3428.

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



# City launches Community of Care Campaign

The City is proud to announce the launch of its Community of Care campaign, a unique community-wide initiative designed to foster a culture of care, compassion, and collaboration.

This campaign encourages public-private partnerships, local businesses, residents, and those who work in West Des Moines to unite in acts of care for those in need through three impactful avenues: Advocate, Donate, or Volunteer.

Mayor Russ Trimble emphasized the City's ambition to set a standard for other communities. "We want to serve as a leader for the region and the nation on leading with care. Our Community of Care campaign is a call to action for everyone who lives or works here to show what it means to be part of a community that cares for one another," said Trimble.

The campaign, organized in partnership with the West Des Moines Human Services department, highlights ways for everyone to get involved. Audrey Kennis, Director of Human Services and Inclusion for the City of West Des Moines, noted, "The true strength of our community is not measured by numbers, but by the depth of our connections. When we show up for one another, we can transcend barriers and redefine what it means to belong. Everyone has the ability to uplift our community through advocacy, donations, or volunteering."

[Residents and members of the WDM workforce are encouraged to visit \[www.wdm.iowa.gov/WDMCares\]\(http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/WDMCares\) to learn more about the various ways they can contribute to making West Des Moines a welcoming and inclusive community.](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/WDMCares)

Participating businesses can sponsor We Care banners or organize volunteer events. Additionally, the community is invited to share their stories of advocacy and care on social media using the hashtag **#WDMCares**.



## Kick-Off Events: West Des Moines Community Schools Event

To kick off the Community of Care campaign, the City of West Des Moines is partnering with West Des Moines Community Schools to host a community event for stu-

dents of Hillside Elementary School in West Des Moines. The event will take place on **Thursday, October 3, from 5-7 p.m. at American Legion Park in West Des Moines**. The family friendly evening will serve as a kickoff to the Community of Care Campaign and will include music, food trucks, a resource fair and various city vehicles from WDM Police, Fire, EMS and Public Services.

## Des Moines Buccaneers Community of Care – Ceremonial Puck Drop

The Des Moines Buccaneers have a new home arena at the MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex in West Des Moines, and they are excited for the opportunity to get involved with the community.

The Buccaneers will help the city kick off their Community of Care campaign by inviting Mayor Russ Trimble to participate in a ceremonial puck drop to kick-off the Buccaneers game against the Waterloo Black Hawks on **Friday, October 4, at 7 p.m. at the MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex, 6500 Grand Avenue**.



**Beggars' Night in West Des Moines will be held on Wednesday, October 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.**

# SeeClickFix



The City's online and mobile service desk is called SeeClickFix!

Simply download the app on your Android or iPhone to report non-emergency issues to the City, such as potholes, graffiti, traffic signal issues, code violations, etc.

You can also access SeeClickFix on our 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)

## Keep leaves out of storm drains to prevent flooding



While the fall foliage is beautiful this time of year in central Iowa, it can create quite a nuisance when all those leaves

end up in the street and eventually the storm drains. [City Code 4-4-2:C prohibits depositing leaves, mud, dirt, gravel, snow or other debris in the public right of way.](#)

Regardless of where the leaves come from, property owners are responsible for maintaining their yards and the areas adjacent to City right-of-way, including sidewalks.

While blowing or raking leaves into the street might get them out of **your** yard, they often end up in a stormwater drain where they clog pipes, which

results in street flooding. In extreme cases, water can back up into homes.

**Follow these tips to dispose of your leaves:**

1. **Create a compost pile.**
2. **Blow leaves underneath nearby garden shrubs** – this creates useful mulch that improves the soil.
3. **Rake leaves into flower beds.** A 4- to 6-inch layer of mulch protects plants from winter cold. Some flowers that normally don't overwinter well can be kept in the ground with heavy mulching.
4. **Mow & mulch!** If you have minimal leaves in your yard, mowing over them will break them up and they'll eventually get reabsorbed into the soil, providing a boost of nitrogen to your lawn.

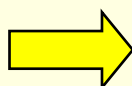


## Street signs get an upgrade!

The sign crew from the Public Services department has completed updating all the street name signs throughout the City. They constructed and replaced all of the smaller, faded signs with larger, easier-to-read signs.

In addition, the signs now have the hundred blocks printed on them, which will assist Police, Fire and EMS when responding to emergencies. This upgrade included nearly 6,000 signs at 1,500 locations!

OLD SIGN

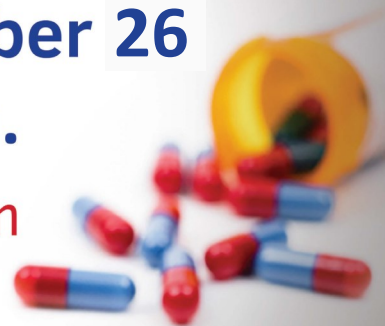


NEW SIGN



**Saturday, October 26**  
**10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**DEATakeBack.com**



**Keep your family safe by taking unused  
or expired prescription drugs to the  
WDM Police Department,  
250 Mills Civic Parkway!**

***Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.***

# Halloween at the WDM Library!

We're approaching one of our favorite times of the year here at the library: Halloween!  
We're going to have fun (and spooky!) events for every age.

**Registration for October events opens at 9:00 AM on October 1**  
**on our website at [www.wdmlibrary.org/events](http://www.wdmlibrary.org/events).**



## After School Adventures: Pumpkin Lanterns

*Wednesday, October 9 - 3:45 - 4:30 PM (Ages 5–12)*

Join us in the Community Room after school to embark on an adventure! This month we'll decorate pumpkins that you can take home or leave with us to decorate the library for fall! Registration required.



## Preschool Halloween Storytime

*Wednesday, October 16 - 6:30 - 7:00 PM or Thursday & Friday (October 17 & 18) - 10:30 - 11:00 AM (Ages 2–6 with adult)*

Put on your favorite costume and join us in the community room for not-too-scary stories and Halloween fun at the library. We'll also show off our costumes with a short parade around the first floor of the library. Registration required.



## Teen Halloween: Laser Tag!

*Friday, October 18 - 5:30 - 8:00 PM (Grades 6–12)*

Teens – Are you ready for a pizza party and a night of laser tag? Then this is the program for you! Signed permission slips are REQUIRED for a teen to participate in this after-hours program.



## Halloween Connect Four!

*Monday, October 28 - Thursday, October 31— ALL DAY (All Ages)*

Visit the Children's Department between October 28–31 and pick up a card full of eerie activities. Connect four and then stop by the desk, and you'll get a Halloween treat!



## How to Read a Cemetery

*Monday, October 28 - 6:30–7:30 PM (Adults)*

Join us for an entertaining and informative presentation exploring common cemetery iconography. You'll learn about how even though there are multiple points of views and facets to these images, the symbolism is represented across many cemeteries. No registration required.



City of WDM

# Legacy Woods Tree Planting Event

The City will be hosting a volunteer tree planting event at Legacy Woods, 2001 Fuller Road, on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

We plan to start at 8:30 a.m. with a tree planting demonstration. We will plant 79 trees and all tree planting holes will be pre-dug the previous day. We anticipate being done with the planting by 11:00 a.m.

Donuts, drinks, and shovels will be provided, so join us and be a part of a history-making event to keep our community beautiful!

[If you can help out, please reserve your spot today on Sign Up Genius.](#)

This planting is partially funded through a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

[Questions? Please contact our City Forester, Paul Tauke.](#)

The WDM Human Services Friends Foundation's annual Sunday Supper in Our Town fundraising event was held at Fleming's on September 29th.

The event raised over \$30,000 to benefit under- resourced residents of WDM.

Thanks to all who attended and enjoyed a delicious meal, great conversation and a wonderful evening of giving back to our community.

A special thank you to our sponsors for the event!

## Sunday Supper In Our Town 2024 Sponsors

**\$2,500**



Brian & Elaine Gifford

**\$1,000**

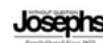


Jennifer & Irving Hahn

Joe & Betsy Happe

Sue Wright

**\$500**



Mary & Sam Bemabe

Patty & Doug Dornacker

Dale & Jo Helling

DeAnn & Steve Howard

Martha James

Greg Nichols & Dawn Connet

Megan & Tyler Omann

Jim & Louisa Sandager

Jody & Tricia Smith

Lori Teel

Russ & Alana Trimble

## 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



## Winter Outerwear Drive takes place on October 29

The Annual Winter Outerwear Distribution event at WDM Human Services for income-eligible families in West Des Moines, Clive, Windsor Heights and Urbandale will take place on Tuesday, October 29.

We are currently taking donations of coats, boots, socks, hats, snow pants, scarves, gloves, and mittens to help support this event.

You can participate by donating new or gently used outerwear, [making a monetary donation](#) or [shopping our Amazon Wishlist](#).



### West Des Moines Human Services

Help support our upcoming distribution event by donating new or gently-used winter outerwear!



#### ITEMS NEEDED:

- Coats
- Socks
- Snow pants
- Gloves
- Boots
- Hats
- Scarves
- Mittens

Drop off donations by October 28th:  
139 6th Street, West Des Moines



#### Donation Drop-Off Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Fridays: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Tuesdays: 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Scan to order from our Amazon Wishlist



## Holiday assistance time is near

West Des Moines Human Services will be offering a limited number of programs for holiday assistance to qualifying West Des Moines residents.

Income and residency guidelines apply. Registration begins Monday, October 14.

To learn more, call (515) 222-3660 or visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/HolidayAssistance](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/HolidayAssistance).

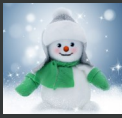




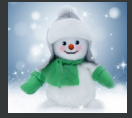
# 2024 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

→ 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.



## Winter is just around the corner



**If you normally park in City streets, alleys, or City-owned parking lots, NOW is the time to plan where you'll park when a snow parking ban is in effect during the winter.**

**Help our snowplow drivers safely clear the streets and avoid receiving a ticket or tow by making a ...**

***Plan for the Ban!***



## 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.

