



November
2024

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Our updated inclusive parks are open



Several parks in West Des Moines reopened in mid-October with new, inclusive playground equipment! Crossroads, Kiwanis and Jaycee Parks feature state-of-the-art play areas that promise to provide endless fun and adventure for kids of all abilities. Pearson Park also received a major upgrade.

We thank everyone for your patience and understanding during the reconstruction process. We hope you'll love our new and improved parks as much as we do!



Crossroads Park



Kiwanis Park



Jaycee Park



City Hall and most City offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29.

Garbage, yard waste & recycling collection will be delayed one day after Thanksgiving. Thursday's collection will occur on Friday, and Friday's collection will occur on Saturday.

Connect with us!

www.wdm.iowa.gov



Curbside yard waste collection is Leaf-ing for the season

Curbside collection of yard waste through the Compost It! program **will end for the season the week of November 25, 2024**, on your regular collection day. **Remember, collection will be delayed one day after Thanksgiving Day.**

The program accepts small twigs and branches, leaves and lawn clippings, as well as any garden vegetation. Just avoid dirt, mulch, rocks, and food.

To have your yard waste collected until the end of the season, be sure to tag it, bag it, or wheel it:

- ◆ **Tag it:** Brush bundles and store-brand bags require a green Compost It! sticker for collection. Brush bundles can be no larger than 4-feet long by 18 inches in diameter.
- ◆ **Bag it:** Put loose yard waste such as lawn clippings, leaves, and garden vegetation in Compost It! bags or store-brand bags with a green Compost It! sticker. Compost It! bags and stickers are sold at many local grocery, home improvement, and convenience stores.

- ◆ **Wheel it:** If you've enrolled in the Compost It! cart service, toss everything in your cart and take it to the curb on your normal collection day.

Iowa weather always keeps us guessing, so if you have yard waste left after November, you'll have one more chance to have it collected.



Winter collection will occur December 30, 2024 –January 11, 2025, on your regular collection day.

During winter collection, regular yard waste as well as live Christmas trees can be disposed of

curbside. **Please Note: Collection is delayed by one day after New Year's Day on January 1.**

[To find a complete list of retailers who sell Compost It! bags and stickers, or for more information on yard waste collection, visit Metro Waste Authority's website](#) or call (515) 244-0021.



WDM Police Lost & Found



The WDM Police Department has a variety of property that has been abandoned.

This includes items such as bicycles, clothing, electronics, tools, keys, money, and firearms. To claim this property, contact the West Des

Moines Police Department at (515) 222-3361 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Identification and proof of ownership is required.

WDM Library Friends Board elects new officers



The West Des Moines Library Friends Foundation Board includes, seated: Mary Fratianni, Kristin Sunde, Kathryn Greenfield, Bridget Johnson, Ed O'Neill, Brandon Denner, Abby Draisey, Jennifer Hochberger; and standing: Heather Martin, Laura McCall, Deb Guntly, Laura Hasebrock, Dan Wakefield, Ellie Wakefield, Roxanne Nikkel, Jim Rasmussen, Angie Arthur, and Savannah Minnick. Absent from the picture are Chinmay Bajikar, Matthew Oberreuter, and Andrea Solomon.

[If you're interested in serving on the WDM Library Friends Foundation Board, just send an email to wdmlibraryfriends@gmail.com for more information!](mailto:wdmlibraryfriends@gmail.com)



Introduction to Astrology Basics

Monday, November 4 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Teens, Adults)

Are you curious to know how the stars and planets can have an impact on your life? Come learn from Nancy Barnett about the basics of horoscopes and birth charts, as well as the language of astrology. No registration required.



Author Event: Kimberly Stuart

Tuesday, November 12 - 6:45 - 8:00 PM (Adults)

The Friends Foundation is proud to present local author Kimberly Stuart, the author of nine books, including the Heidi Elliott series, and, most recently, *Star for Jesus (And Other Jobs I Quit)*. No registration.



Music by Serenade

Sunday, November 24 - 3:00 - 4:00 PM (All Ages)

The Library is very happy to welcome Serenade for an afternoon of enchanting music! Featuring the unique musical pairing of Denise Schmitz and Tim Cooper, Serenade will perform beautiful ballads and more.

Holiday assistance is available

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

Income and residency guidelines and deadlines apply. Registration is now open! The deadline to apply for assistance is November 22.



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



Parks and Recreation enthusiasts are invited to join the Friends of WDM Parks and Recreation, a group that has been formed to support 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.

Use SeeClickFix, our service desk, to report code issues

[SeeClickFix](#) is the easiest way for residents to submit non-emergency requests, stay up-to-date on their issues and initiate change in West Des Moines!

In addition to reporting on the website, an app can be downloaded on your Android or iPhone, making it a quick and easy way to report issues to the City. You can sign up anonymously or enter your email to receive updates



from us. SeeClickFix is your service desk for non-emergency issues such as storm drain problems, weeds and tall grass violations, graffiti, junk vehicles, and traffic signal and sign problems.

[Just download the app or visit the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov and look for SeeClickFix in the very bottom left-hand corner of the main page.](#)

Holiday Giving Opportunities

The holidays are just around the corner, and Human Services needs your help to make the holidays bright for low-income families in the community.

We rely on donations and the generosity of sponsors to provide assistance. Please consider helping a household in need in any of the following ways:



Adopt-A-Family

Sponsor a family in need by providing gifts for the children in the household. Deliver your gifts to the Human Services office.

[Complete a Holiday Sponsor Form](#). Registration will be open until December 2nd or until all families have been matched. Matching of sponsors and families is currently underway.



Adopt-A-Teen

Interested in helping out, but don't want to commit to an entire family? Sponsor a teen from a low-income household! Deliver your gifts to the Human Services office.

[Complete a Holiday Sponsor form](#). Registration will be open until December 2nd or until all teens have been matched. Matching of sponsors and teens is currently underway.



Holiday Food Assistance

Help us provide holiday meal assistance by making a donation designated for food vouchers. ***Please note: We are no longer accepting gift cards.***

Interested in hosting a Thanksgiving Food Drive or donating Thanksgiving food items? View our **[Thanksgiving Food Drive flyer](#)**, or shop our **[Amazon Wishlist](#)** and have items shipped directly to our office.



Monetary Donation

WDM Human Services currently provides assistance to more than 2,000 households in WDM and surrounding western suburbs. We offer emergency assistance for rent and utilities, youth recreational assistance, clothing, and food assistance in addition to many other programs for those struggling with poverty.

[Make a donation to assist the department in helping those less fortunate during the holiday season and throughout the year.](#)

[Learn more about our Holiday Giving Opportunities](#) or call (515) 222-3663 or **[email](#)** Human Services for more information,

Please join us in making this a happy holiday for all!

Somethin' tells me it's all happening at the Zoo!

Last month, WDM Parks & Recreation Naturalist, Jess Lancial, led a group of City employees to organize and conduct a volunteer workday at Raccoon River Park. The Parks department teamed up with Public Services to help Westridge Elementary 5th graders, and their adult chaperones, remove invasive species from our onsite prairie.

Representatives from Blank Park Zoo also were on hand to help identify plant species that are considered “quality browse” for some animals at the zoo. Invasive woody plants such as honeysuckle, mulberry, and Siberian elm were cut down by the students, loaded onto trucks and delivered to the zoo.

This event gives students an opportunity to learn about the importance of diversity in habitat, helping your local community, while also connecting with nature and providing a valuable service to the West Des Moines Park – not to mention providing some *tasty treats* for the zoo's animals!



We've got the Best of the Best!



Two Public Services Operations Specialists travelled to Colorado in September to compete in the APWA Western

Snow Rodeo, also known as the National Snow Rodeo.

This competition brings in operators from across the country, with agencies as far away as Alaska and Maine sending their expert operators to con-

tend for a top spot in several different equipment courses.

Brian Snyder and Derek Muche teamed up on the Single Axle Truck course, finishing 11th out of 53 teams.

In the Motor Grader course, Brian finished 3rd out of 55 competitors. In the Loader course, Derek finished in a 4-way tie for 3rd place, out of 97 competitors.

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

“COOK WITH CAUTION”

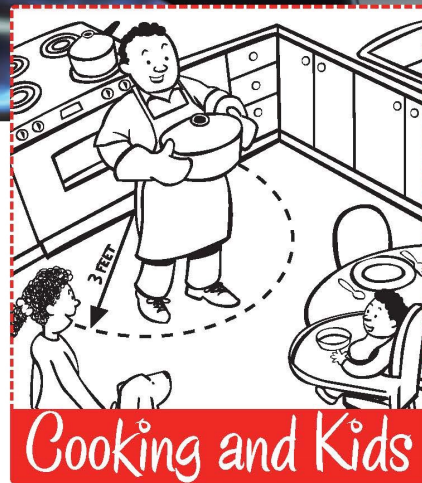
- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



Community Compliance Corner

One way to keep our City beautiful and safe during the winter months is by being a good neighbor and adhering to City Code!

Residents are required by City Ordinance 7-1-5 to clear sidewalks (including those crossing alleys, crosswalks, and driveways) **within 24 hours** of the end of a storm.

A helpful hint for residents – clear your sidewalk *after* the snowplows have completely finished plowing the street to the curb.

If your sidewalk is icy, please apply sand or applicable deicer product to reduce pedestrian injury and minimize your exposure to liability.



*This sidewalk does **NOT** meet City Code 7-1-5 since it has not been cleared within 24 hours after a storm.*

How will I know if an emergency snow parking ban is in effect?

- Visit wdm.iowa.gov and look for the News article & banner at the top of the page
- Follow the City of West Des Moines – City Manager’s Office on Facebook
- Call the Snow Hotline at (515) 273-0766
- Sign up for email and text message alerts:

[Sign up for emails at wdm.iowa.gov/residents/get-involved/enotification](http://wdm.iowa.gov/residents/get-involved/enotification)



[Sign up for text messages & follow 3 easy steps:](#)

Subscribe

Enter your phone number to subscribe to broadcast alerts.

Phone number


1

Keep me updated on...

2 Snow Emergency Parking Bans

3

2024 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

 <p>Saturday, November 30</p>	<p>Yard Waste Pickup Ends the Week of November 25 on your Garbage Pick-up Day. Please note: Garbage, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed one day after the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 28.</p>
<p>Dec. 30, 2024 – Jan. 11, 2025</p>	<p>Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection</p>

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 reminders to help you prepare



Winter is just around the corner, and November means the first snowfall is a likely possibility.

Here are a few very important reminders to make sure you are prepared for the season:

The priority for our snowplow drivers in clearing streets during a winter event is:

- 1st** Arterial streets (high traffic volume)
- 2nd** Collector streets (major and minor streets that connect with arterials)
- 3rd** Residential streets
- 4th** Unimproved streets, alleys, public side walks, trails, and public parking lots

Plan for the Ban!

- **When there's snow in the forecast, assume there will be an Emergency Snow Parking Ban put in place.**

Vehicles must be removed from all City-owned parking areas when a Snow Emergency Parking Ban is in effect.

Vehicles parked in these areas are subject to being towed and/or getting a \$50 ticket.

NOW is the time to plan where you'll park when a snow parking ban is in effect during winter weather events.

- Depending on storm conditions, **crews may be coming down your street more than once to fully plow the snow to the curb.** Don't assume you can park in the street just because you saw a snow plow go down the street.

Call the Snow Hotline at **(515) 273-0766** if you're unsure whether a parking ban is in place.

- Sidewalks are to be cleared by property owners **within 24 hours** after the end of a snowfall or winter storm.