



January
2020

West Des Moines eNewsletter

It's that time of year for Snow Parking Bans!

It's not too late to sign up to receive text messages when the City issues an emergency snow parking ban!

[Just visit our website at www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotification](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotification) and follow these simple steps:

- 1) Click on the **red text** that says "Sign up here to receive text messages when Emergency Snow Parking Bans are issued."
- 2) Enter your cell phone number, your email address (so we can send you a confirmation email), and your first and last name.



- 3) Check the box to the left of "Subscribe to all SMS Messages."

- 4) Click on the box confirming that you are not a robot and click **SUBMIT**.

Then **activate** your request by answering our confirmation email confirming your request for text alerts.

Keep in mind that if snow is in the forecast, we will probably issue a parking ban so crews can efficiently remove snow and ice from our streets.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION DELAY

City Hall and most City offices will be closed for the holidays on Tues. and Wed., Dec. 24 & 25, and Wed., January 1, 2020.

Garbage & recycling will be delayed one day each week after the holidays on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1, with Friday's collection delayed until Saturday.

Have a wonderful holiday!



Get a Curb It! magnet

Help keep on track of your Curb It! Recycling collection day by picking up a 2020 Calendar at West Des Moines City Hall (4200 Mills Civic Parkway) or Public Services (560 S. 16th Street).

The magnet shows your collection weeks based on lid color as well as the days collection will be affected by holidays (indicated in orange).

[Learn more by visiting the Metro Waste Authority website.](#)



Coming soon ... Winter Collection!



For two weeks only you can have your natural “live” Christmas tree picked up at your curb for the cost of a Compost It! sticker.

December 30, 2019 – January 10, 2020

Just remember, the sticker is the only decoration your tree can have. Please make sure all ornaments, lights and wires have been removed. Wreaths and garlands are not accepted.

If Iowa weather continues to be unpredictable, you might find yourself with leftover yard waste, too. During winter collection, leaves, lawn clippings or garden vegetation can also be collected (in addition to live Christmas trees).

For collection, place your tree or yard waste at the

curb before 7:00 a.m. on your regular collection day. Be sure to leave at least three feet between carts and yard waste. Compost It! bags and stickers are available at City Hall as well as many area grocery and hardware stores.

For more information, visit Metro Waste Authority at www.WherItShouldGo.com or call them at (515) 244-0021.



Residents who use Premium Yard Waste carts may use them during Winter Collection.

Library extends holiday closing

In preparation for the second phase of an ongoing remodeling project, the West Des Moines Public Library will close to the public for the holidays at 9 p.m. on December 23, and will re-open at 9 a.m. on January 3, 2020.

The extra days will give staff the opportunity to prepare the Library for Phase 2 of the Renovation Project.

In addition, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has moved from their temporary location in the library back to their original location on the first floor of City Hall.

Library construction has been underway since late October, and Phase 1, which has concentrated on the south side of the second floor, will end just before Christmas. Phase 2 will concentrate on the north side of the second floor, including library administration offices.

During the extended December closing, West Des Moines Library staff will:

- ◆ Move and/or store furniture that would be in the way during Phase 2;
- ◆ Relocate and reconnect public computers, printers and copiers;
- ◆ Move service desks on 2nd floor to make staff available to patrons in newly renovated Phase 1 areas; and
- ◆ Re-establish administration offices on the first floor in the space most recently used by the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department as temporary offices during the renovation of City Hall.

"Shortly after we re-open, our second floor study rooms will be available again," says Library Director Darryl Eschete. "This works out perfectly; it's just in time for mid-terms."



During the closing, book drops will be emptied as usual and patrons are encouraged to use them as long as returned items are appropriate for the book drop. Otherwise, patrons can hold on to checked-out items until the library reopens. Due dates will be ex-

tended to allow for the extra closed days.

The renovation will ultimately repurpose the library's former coffee shop, create a dedicated young adult space, update public furnishings, and replace worn carpet and paint throughout the building. The work will also improve existing meeting rooms, add new meeting spaces and upgrade staff work area furniture.

The West Des Moines Public Library was built in 1996 and this project will be the first major renovation of the building since the completion of West Des Moines City Hall in 2003.

The library project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2021, with contractors pausing during the summer of 2020 to allow for summer reading activities.

Readers should contact Library Director Darryl Eschete at (515) 222-3409 or [email him](#) with any questions or concerns.

How do I know if a Snow Parking Ban is in effect?

* Call the Snow Hotline at **273-0766** or check the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov. Both are available 24/7.

* Sign up for email & text message alerts!

➔ Sign up for **e-mails** at www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotification.

➔ To sign up for snow parking ban **text messages**, click on the red link on the eNotification page to visit a separate sign-up page. Click SNOW EMERGENCY under the News Category.



During a Parking Ban, vehicles must be removed from all City streets, alleys and City-owned parking areas.

Parking bans are usually in effect from their proclamation through 5 p.m. the following day, unless extended due to the length of the storm or a large volume of snowfall.

Snow and/or ice? There's likely a Parking Ban!

As you keep an eye on the weather this winter, remember to be aware of possible parking bans that are issued so that crews can clear our streets of snow and ice.

During a parking ban, vehicles must be removed from all City streets, alleys and City-owned parking areas or be subject to being towed and/or a \$50 ticket.

Let's enjoy seasonal beauty when we can, and remember just a few things about winter weather:

- Park your vehicle off the street if there's a parking ban.
- Give those snowplows plenty of room.
- Clear your sidewalk within 24 hours after the end of a storm.
- Mailbox—make sure it's accessible for mail delivery.
- Be safe and enjoy the winter weather!



Be proactive! When snow is in the forecast, park your vehicle off the street.

Heating Fire Safety



Follow these heating tips to help maintain a fire-safe home this winter.



Space Heater

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.



Fireplace

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out **before** you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.



Wood Stove

- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Put the fire out **before** you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.



Furnace

- Have your furnace inspected each year.
- Keep anything that can burn away from the furnace.



Kerosene Heater

- Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Refuel your **cooled** heater outside.

For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach.



Join us for the WDM Citizen Police Academy!



The West Des Moines Police Department will hold its Citizen Police Academy from **February 4 – April 28, 2020**.

The goal of the academy is to provide an educational program that allows citizens to learn first-hand about police operations and achieve a better understanding of today's law enforcement functions, challenges and opportunities.

The academy consists of 12 three-hour sessions conducted on a weekly basis (every Tuesday evening) from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the West Des Moines Law Enforcement Center, 250 Mills Civic Parkway. A two-hour ride-along with a patrol officer is also offered to participants.



The comprehensive instruction covers different areas routinely addressed by law enforcement. Each session is designed to incorporate an interactive format, providing the participants with a “hands on” experience whenever practical. Class size is limited to 25 participants and the course fee is \$30.

All applicants must:

- ★ be 18 years of age or older;
- ★ live or work in West Des Moines;
- ★ have no history of criminal behavior; and
- ★ pass a background check.

The deadline to sign up is January 28, 2020. Applications are available at the WDM Police Department or by email.

Questions? Contact Officer Jeff Hartshorn at 222-3333 or jeff.hartshorn@wdm.iowa.gov.

Use **YourGOV** to talk to us!

To report a violation or any non-emergency issue, visit our website at www.wdm.iowa.gov and select “Online Service Desk” at the top of the page in the horizontal menu.

Then just follow the directions by selecting a location (type in West Des Moines and Iowa, and click on the map so we get an accurate address).

Once you've completed those steps, just click



on the “+” icon and select the type of issue you're reporting from the drop-down menu. You can even send us a photo by browsing for an image on your phone or desktop.

If you don't like using a laptop or desktop computer, you can download the **YourGOV App** for your iPhone from the iTunes Store or visit Google Play to download the App for Android.

Community Compliance: Keeping WDM beautiful & safe!

The City's Community Compliance Specialists are working year-round to keep our community beautiful and safe by responding to violations of City Code.

What are the most common violations this time of year?

Inoperable Vehicles – 4-4-2:H

Vehicles with broken windshields, broken or loose parts, not capable of moving in forward and reverse gears or constituting a threat to public health and safety.

Debris/Junk – 4-4-2:B

Rubbish, trash or other materials accumulating on property.

Inoperable vehicles and debris/junk must be removed from the property or enclosed within a building.

Parking off Hard Surface – 4-4-2:G

Vehicles parked on private property with residential zoning on an unpaved surface or a surface that does not comply with subsections 9-15-4B and 9-15-6G of the City Code.

Snow and Ice on Sidewalks - Accumulations of snow and ice must be removed within (24) hours following the end of a winter event.

To learn more about City Code, visit the City website at www.wdm.iowa.gov and select City Code.

www.wdm.iowa.gov



[Report an issue to our online service desk](#)

[Check out our City Code](#)



2020 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

Annual Spring Cleanup is June 1 – 5 on your regular trash collection day!

April 6	Yard Waste Pickup begins on your normal trash collection day
April 11	Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., West Des Moines Public Services
May 21	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer’s Market
June 1 – 5	Annual Spring Cleanup – on your regular trash day. Watch for details! No appliances accepted (see June 6 event).
June 6	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off * 8 a.m. – 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services
September 12	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off * 8 a.m. – 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services
November 28	Yard Waste Pickup Ends
Dec. 28, 2020 – Jan. 8, 2021	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

*Paper shredding services will not be provided by the City due to the variety of privately sponsored paper shredding events in our area throughout the year.

Yard Waste and Annual Spring Cleanup events are available to all WDM residents who are eligible for solid waste collection.

For Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Options, [visit Metro Waste Authority’s website](#).

For more information, [visit www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) or call WDM Public Services at 222-3480.



Parks and Recreation enthusiasts are invited to join the Friends of WDM Parks and Recreation, a new 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 or make a donation to the group’s first fundraising project (the Raccoon River Pedestrian Bridge), visit the Friends website at www.wdm.iowa.gov/FriendsofWDMPR.