



February
2020

West Des Moines eNewsletter

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, IA, 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.

Sign up for a text when Snow Parking Bans are issued

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.

Connect with us! www.wdm.iowa.gov



Bring your sweetheart for a delightful evening

SWEETHEART DANCE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

4 – 7 P.M.

WDM SHERATON HOTEL

1800 50th Street

Join us for this annual community event where *all sweethearts* are invited!

This amazing gathering will be held at the West Des Moines Sheraton Hotel. A child-friendly, light Italian meal (served buffet style) and a variety of delicious desserts will be provided. Video DJ *Thunder and Lightning* will entertain with two huge video screens and family friendly music.

Photos may be taken by University Photo for a small additional fee, and a box of conversation hearts will be handed out to children when they leave the event. Plan ahead and don't miss out on the fun! Ages: 4 – 11; \$20 per person.

To register, visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/ParkRecReg or call 222-3444.

Sign up for the latest West Des Moines news



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

All you have to do is sign up for eUpdates and select the news 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. Our eUpdate system makes it easy to stay informed about items that matter to you.

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

Snow removal technology clears the way in WDM

Have you ever wondered what type of technology the City of West Des Moines uses to aid in snow removal?

Over the past several years, the City has invested in several types of electronic and equipment technology to increase efficiency. Both types have helped us enhance our snow and ice control efforts.

The electronic technology we use includes:

- A contract weather service provider which provides a localized road forecast.
- Automatic vehicle location (AVL) which provides truck data, such as road temperature, salt usage and location.
- A road weather information system (RWIS) that provides staff, as well as the contract weather service provider, with real-time road conditions to ensure proper treatment and operational decisions are made.
- A mobile road weather sensor, our most recent piece of technology, is mounted in a truck and provides real-time road and atmospheric data to the snow plow operator as well as supervisory staff.



The equipment technology we use includes:

- Automated salt spreader controls that only apply salt at a specified amount while the truck is driving.
- Wing plows that are mounted on trucks to more efficiently remove snow from roadways. Wing plows allow snow plow operators to remove snow from an additional 3-5

feet of pavement surface compared to just using a conventional front plow.

- The most recent addition to the City's fleet is a tow plow. This plow is mounted on a trailer and towed behind a tandem axle plow truck, and it

allows the operator to plow two full lanes as well as apply deicing material.

The combination of these technologies has helped increase the efficiency of our plowing operations and reduce the amount of deicing chemicals crews apply to our roads.

Keep in mind, though, that the most important part of the City's Snow and Ice Control Program is the **employees** who use these technologies to keep our roadways safe!



Clothing closet needs volunteers

West Des Moines Human Services is in need of volunteers to help with their Clothing Closet at 139 6th Street in Valley Junction.

Volunteers accept and sort donations of clothing and housewares, assist clients and keep the room clean and organized. Opportunities are available Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Evening opportunities also are available on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Clothing Closet provides free clothing and housewares to eligible, low-income households on a monthly basis.

Please call 222-3663 for more information or email melinda.hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov.

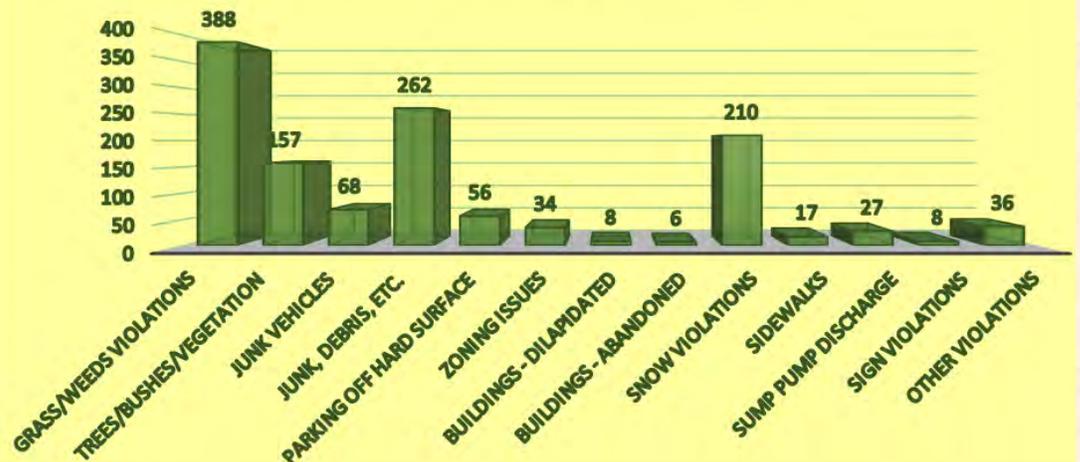
Community Compliance Corner

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

Here's a peek at the most common violations that occurred during 2019.



Code Violations By Type - 2019



Enjoy the convenience of online renewal



renewals are accepted January 1 through April 30

If you have a dog or cat six months of age or older, you probably already know that you need to renew your pet license each year! License

without penalty. [Just visit our website](#) to learn more about pet licensing in West Des Moines. When you're ready to experience how convenient it is to renew a license online and avoid the worry of your check not making it to us in time, [visit the WDM Online Licensing Site for WestPet.](#)

Carbon Monoxide Safety



Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

- ! A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ! In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



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

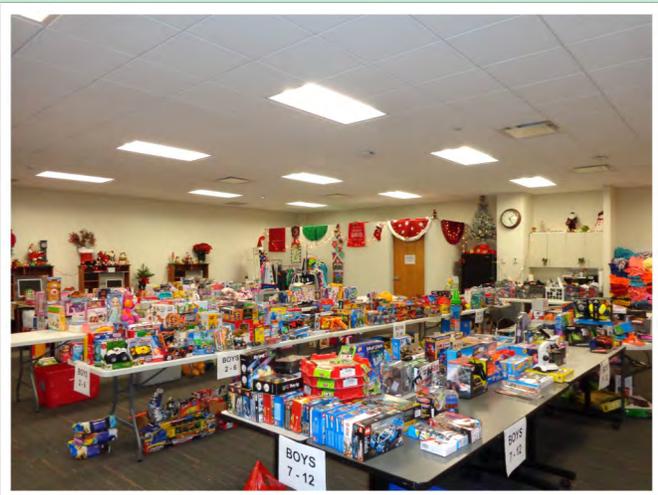


Thank you, West Des Moines!

Due to the tremendous support of the community, West Des Moines Human Services was able to provide holiday assistance to **518 low-income households in 2019.**

Community donations of toys, clothing, food and grocery gift cards (as well as monetary contributions) were greatly appreciated and helped support our holiday assistance programs.

Thank you to all of the generous organizations and individuals who participated in the 2019 Adopt-A-Family Program which matched almost **250 families** with sponsors!



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.