



March
2020

West Des Moines eNewsletter

Census Day is April 1st — No fooling!

The U.S. Census Bureau will soon begin mailing invitations to households with instructions about how to participate in the 2020 Census!

This is the first time in Census history that responses will be accepted online. You also can respond by phone or mail.

The data collected by census takers is used by lawmakers to make decisions about who receives federal funding for our schools, hospitals, fire departments and roads. Census results also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and how congressional and state legislative districts are defined.

In a growing community like West Des Moines, it's **absolutely essential for everyone to be counted** so we have a chance to receive the funding and resources we need for our residents.

The Census will ask you how many people are living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020; your telephone number; whether the home is owned or rented; the sex, age and race of each person living in your home; the relationship of each person in your home; and whether anyone in your home is of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin.

Please keep in mind the Census Bureau will never ask you for:

- Your Social Security number
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Your bank or credit card account numbers

To learn more or apply for a job with the Census, visit www.2020census.gov.

census facts

The 2020 Census is required by the Constitution, and the United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



census facts

2020 Census data will help inform how billions of dollars are distributed to states and communities every year for the next 10 years.



census facts

The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential.



census facts

The 2020 Census will determine how many congressional representatives each state gets.



Connect with us! www.wdm.iowa.gov



Yard waste collection begins on April 6



The season for yard work is almost here! Curbside yard waste collection starts the week of April 6 and continues through November.

Yard waste cannot be disposed of in your normal garbage, so residents have the option to use Compost It! bags, stickers or carts.

The Compost It! name pays for the cost of collection.

For more information on any of your solid waste needs, call Metro Waste Authority at 244-0021 or visit www.WherItShouldGo.com. If you would like a premium yard waste cart, contact Public Services at 222-3480.

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!

Human Services transportation program is ending

The Transportation Program at West Des Moines Human Services will end in April of this year. The replacement options are as follows (and please be aware that there are eligibility requirements for each of these options):

- Managed Care Organization (MCO)
- DART Bus Plus
- Free Bus Pass
- Polk County Adult Services

To get started on finding alternative transportation, please call Polk County at (515) 286-3484



for an initial assessment. Staff will work with you to help residents in need find a way to get to necessary appointments if they do not have the financial resources to pay for transportation or someone who can transport them.

For current riders, the last day to get in touch with Polk County is Friday, March 27, 2020.

If you have any questions or need help with any of these options, please call (515) 222-3661.

Shade Crusade Residential Tree Sale

Join the City in our crusade to increase West Des Moines' tree diversity and urban tree canopy!

Native trees (valued at approximately \$60 to \$120 each) are being made available to residents of West Des Moines for only \$30 per tree. The remainder of the cost of the trees will be paid by the City.

Due to City funding, all participants must be West Des Moines residents and must agree to plant the tree(s) on residential property within the City limits. Here's how you can participate in the program:

- 1) Visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/ShadeCrusade before April 25. The sooner you sign up, the better your chance of receiving your tree of choice.
- 2) Select your tree(s) and make payment online (\$30 per tree).



- 3) Contact Iowa One Call by dialing 811 or visit www.iowaonecall.com/homeowners by April 30 to set up a time to schedule underground utility locates on your property.
- 4) **Pick up your tree(s) on Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.,** at WDM City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Pkwy.
- 5) Plant your tree(s) right away and be sure to share your tree planting photos on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag **#wdmshadecrusade**.

Please note that any tree not claimed by 10 a.m. will be resold or planted by the City on public property. No warranty is provided. No refunds or replacements.

To learn more about the available tree species, visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/ShadeCrusade.

The West Des Moines Fire Fighters Association

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11
Easter egg hunt begins promptly at 10:30am

Des Moines Area Community College
West Campus
5959 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines

DMACC West Campus is located approximately 1/2 mile west of I-35

FIRE TRUCKS!
FACE PAINTING!
and photos with the
EASTER BUNNY!



Sponsored by
West Des Moines Fire Fighters Association
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Please don't feed the geese!



This photo of a WDM neighborhood is the result of a resident feeding geese. What you can't see from the photo is the residue and droppings on the sidewalks and in yards. The geese are also a traffic hazard!

Feeding waterfowl and other birds is a popular pastime, but many people do not know that this can be harmful to the birds, as well as the environment. Here are several reasons why you **SHOULD NOT** feed geese and other birds:

- Bread, crackers, popcorn and other high carbohydrate foods are like junk food to birds. Birds filling up on them will not seek out other nutritious food. This can cause the birds to become malnourished, contributing to a host of health problems for both adults and babies.
- The geese population in your area will grow and cause overcrowding. Birds will tend to lay more eggs, further contributing to overpopulation.
- The birds defecate more with a diet rich in carbohydrates, which can spread bacteria that can contribute to disease.
- Feeding geese can pollute the environment in a variety of ways, from uneaten food to droppings.
- Goose droppings damage property, pose health issues, and can become unpleasant and annoying.
- Birds that rely on humans for food lose their natural fear and may place themselves in dangerous situations. They may become aggressive toward humans who do not provide them with the food they want.



While you may think that you are helping geese by providing them with food, you can be jeopardizing the health of the birds, other animals, and humans, as well as polluting the environment.

Wild geese have plenty of healthy food in their habitat to sustain them. Let the geese find food on their own so that they and other animals in the environment can stay healthy. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, if you care for waterfowl, here is what you can do to help them retain their “wildness” and maintain their wellbeing:

- ◆ Stop feeding them!
- ◆ Learn more about waterfowl at www.fws.gov/midwest/feedingwaterfowl.htm
- ◆ Then teach others what you know.

(Thank you to geeserelief.com for permission to use text from their website.)

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.

LIHEAP application deadline is April 30

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal program created to assist low income households with home energy needs. LIHEAP offers annual financial assistance to eligible households that require support in meeting higher heating costs during the winter months.

This is a one-time credit that households can reapply for each year. The program is meant to target those who are most vulnerable: the disabled, the elderly and families with young children.

If you live in Polk County and are interested in applying for LIHEAP, please contact West Des Moines Human Services at 222-3660 to arrange an appointment, or you may walk into their office at 139 6th Street during Program Outreach hours to meet with staff who can process your application.

You will be told at the time of application whether you are eligible, and if so, for what amount you might qualify. **The application deadline is Thursday, April 30.**

Dallas County residents must call New Opportunities at (515) 465-5185 to apply.

Required documents include:

1. Proof of income for all household members. This would include documentation of earned wages, self-employment, Social Security/SSI, child support, pension/retirement funds, dividend earnings, unemployment, FIP, etc. for 30 days preceding the date of application, or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return. For households with no income, please call 222-3660 for more information.
2. Documentation of social security cards for all household members.
3. A copy of your most recent heating/electric bill.

A message from your snowplow drivers...



Thank you!

- ◆ For giving us plenty of room on the road.
- ◆ For being patient as we clean up from winter storms.
- ◆ For making sure your vehicles aren't parked on the street when it snows so we can clean your street!