



June
2020

Statement from Mayor Gaer regarding the death of George Floyd



As Mayor of the City of West Des Moines, I know our community is profoundly affected by the senseless death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The impact of such a heartless and brutal event is devastating, especially for people who have been victimized by the ugly and often deadly forces of racism and hatred in our society.

The video of this tragic incident is horrifying to watch. It is completely understandable for anyone – especially individuals of color – to question whether a situation like this could happen here and if we're taking steps as a City to identify and eliminate racism.

I want everyone to know that we do not tolerate racism of any kind in West Des Moines. All individuals who live, work or visit our community should expect to be treated fairly and with the utmost respect by our public safety professionals.

Over the last several years, our West Des Moines Police Department and City employees have participated in extensive diversity training that allows us to examine the many

ways systemic racism lives in our communities and how unconscious bias and privilege influence behavior. A significant part of our work involves a deeply personal commitment on the part of our Police Department to develop relationships and participate in outreach programs that increase trust with marginalized community members.

West Des Moines elected leaders, City staff, and our Police Department are committed to providing exceptional service in a safe, fair and equitable manner.

Respect, inclusion, trust and open dialogue are essential components of our efforts to protect and serve everyone in West Des Moines.

I want to thank all our residents for sharing your concerns and observations with me. I am always willing to continue this important discussion and work together to ensure everyone feels safe in our community.

Steven K. Gaer, Mayor
City of West Des Moines

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City of West Des Moines COVID-19 Update

West Des Moines City Hall, the Public Services building and the business offices of the Fire and EMS Departments will reopen to the public on Monday, June 1. The buildings have been closed since March 19.

The Valley Junction Activity Center and the Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge also will be open on June 1 to public walk-in customers only.

Independence Day Activities

The Independence Day Parade originally planned for Friday, July 3, 2020, in West Des Moines has been cancelled.

A limited fireworks display will occur, weather permitting, on Saturday, July 4, at the City/School Campus near City Hall and the WDM Public Library. Fireworks will NOT be held this year at Raccoon River Park.

The West Des Moines Community Band Concert scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 2020, at Raccoon River Park, also has been cancelled.

WDM Aquatic Centers

Valley View and Holiday Park Aquatic Centers did not open as originally scheduled on Saturday, May 30, 2020. Holiday Park may open for modified swim lessons and lap swimming in July.

Full refunds will be given to those who have already purchased aquatic center season passes or registered for any aquatics programs such as swim lessons.

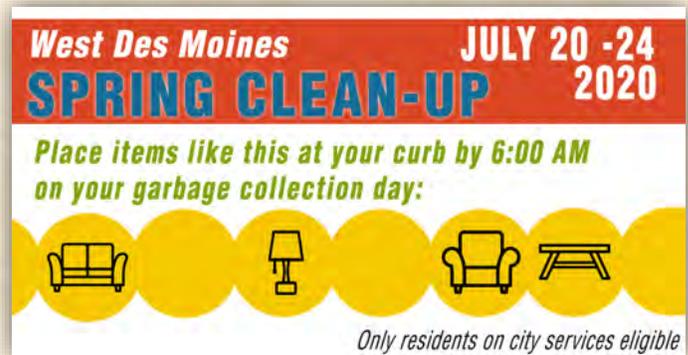
Legion Park Sprayground also remains closed per the Governor's proclamation.

[Visit the Parks and Recreation webpage for more information.](#)

City officials cautioned that all activities and events are being offered at the discretion of the City and are subject to change due to the evolving nature of COVID-19 in our community. If Governor Kim Reynolds or Polk County Health Department officials determine that plans need to change, City events and programs may be cancelled to ensure the safety of employees and patrons.

Public Services Events

Spring Cleanup will now occur in West Des Moines from July 20 to 24 on your normal garbage collection day. Look for additional information on the City's website in the next few days.



Waste Connections has resumed large and extra item curbside pickup. [Stickers are sold at many area retailers, and also are available for sale online.](#)

Additional Updates

[For more information, visit the City's COVID-19 page at \[www.wdm.iowa.gov/COVID19\]\(http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/COVID19\).](#)

Emergency assistance funds available

The City of West Des Moines has been allocated \$192,295 of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

The City will use the majority of these funds to provide assistance with rent, mortgage and/or utilities for vulnerable residents from low and moderate income households who may be subject to eviction, foreclosure or utility disconnect because of job loss related to COVID-19.

In order to qualify, applicants must meet all the following terms for eligibility:

- The household must live within the city boundaries of the City of West Des Moines.
- The household is unable to make rent/mortgage and utility payments specifically due to the effects of COVID-19. Household income and expenses will be reviewed to

verify the household is unable to make the payments through other means. No payments from CDBG funds will be made for months prior to April 2020.

- The head of household applying for assistance must be a citizen or national of the United States or a noncitizen who has eligible immigration status.
- Total household income must be less than 80% of the Area Median Income. The household income will be verified based on the last 30 days of paystubs, unemployment payments and bank statements.

To apply for this program or if you have questions, call the West Des Moines Human Services Department at (515) 222-3660, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents also may email questions to Human Services at Human-Services@wdm.iowa.gov.

Number of Persons in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Maximum Total Gross Household Income	\$49,950	\$57,100	\$64,250	\$71,350	\$77,100	\$82,800	\$88,500	\$94,200

Free Medical Clinic at West Des Moines Human Services

The Valley Junction Free Medical Clinic will re-open on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning on June 2 with curbside services offered from the north entrance of the West Des Moines Human Services building (on Maple Street).

The clinic provides basic medical care and management of chronic medical conditions to uninsured or under-insured individuals; all on-site ser-

vices are provided free of charge. The clinic is a member of Free Clinics of Iowa, the largest network of free medical clinics in the State of Iowa and a donor-supported, not-for-profit organization.

Free Clinics of Iowa member clinics provide basic healthcare services through volunteer physicians and nurses. Please call 222-3660 for more information.

New Cardboard Drop-off Site at Southwoods School

Are you shopping more online these days and finding you're overrun with cardboard that won't fit in your Curb It! cart?

If so, visit the new FREE cardboard drop-off located in the SE corner of the parking lot at Valley Southwoods Freshman High School, 625 S. 35th Street, in West Des Moines.

Simply remove the packing material from each box, flatten it and then slide it right in the big green recycling container.

The container at South 35th Street only accepts cardboard (the brown material commonly used in the smiling boxes from Amazon).

Those in the recycling business call it corrugated, and you can recognize it by the waved ridges in the middle. The flat thin material used to make your favorite cereal box is actually paper – not cardboard.

The City of West Des Moines is partnering with Metro Waste Authority and the WDM School District to bring this convenient resource closer to home since leaving material next to your cart won't get it picked up. The container can be accessed 24/7.

Metro Waste Authority wants to help you be a recycling expert, so if you're ever wondering where it should go, visit

www.WherItShouldGo.com or call MWA at 515-244-0021.



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Don't clog your pipes

Don't spend your money on a sewer backup. Anything that isn't toilet paper should be placed in your garbage. **DO NOT FLUSH WIPES, EVEN THOSE LABELED AS FLUSHABLE!**
Think before you flush!



Construction Updates



If you would like to learn more about Engineering and Parks and Recreation projects under construction, just visit our [website](#). You can also view drone footage of construction projects by [visiting Engineering Services YouTube Channel!](#)

Rain Barrel & Soil Restoration Reimbursement Program

If you're catching up on home improvements and yard work, we invite you to check out our **NEW** Residential Rain Barrel and Soil Quality Restoration Reimbursement Programs.

West Des Moines residents can qualify for up to a \$75 reimbursement on a new rain barrel and up to \$1,500 of their soil quality restoration costs. Improve your lawn, save money on your water bill and improve our City's water quality with these sustainable programs.

[Visit our website for details about how you can participate and make a difference.](#)



YJI receives Community Empowerment Fund Award from Microsoft

The Youth Justice Initiative (YJI) recently received an award in the amount of \$10,000 from the Microsoft Community Empowerment Fund, managed by the Microsoft Datacenter Community Development team.

The award will assist the community by supporting youth to teach seniors how to stay safe and connected to loved ones in the digital world and to teach computer literacy skills to parents to help them engage in their student's learning.

YJI officials are grateful for the award and thankful to have Microsoft as a community partner.

WDM Emergency Medical Services crews are here for you, so please call 911 if you need us in an emergency!



**Heart Attacks and Strokes
Don't Stop During Pandemics.**

Call 911 right away if you have symptoms. Even while fighting the coronavirus, emergency systems stand ready to help.

[heart.org](https://www.heart.org)

Get the App and Save a Life

PulsePoint is an AMBER Alert-type notification for a sudden cardiac arrest.

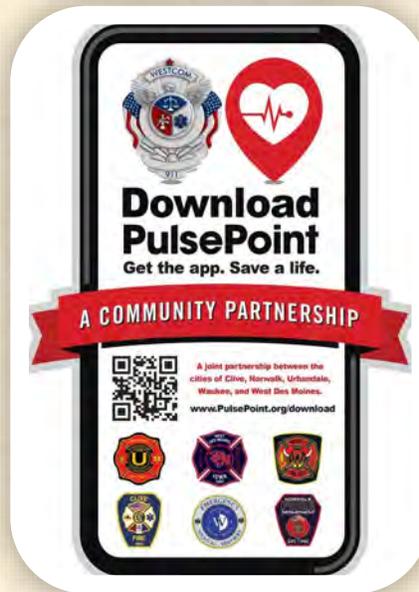
PulsePoint alerts **CPR-trained app users** to a cardiac emergency in their immediate vicinity. App users receive the alert at the same time as professional responders.

Saving time, saves lives.

If a person stops breathing or CPR is needed, and 911 has been called, you will receive an alert on your phone if you are within 1/4 mile of the victim.

The PulsePoint app map will show you where the victim is as well as your location. And best of all, the app is easy to use:

- ◆ Start by downloading the app
- ◆ Click on the menu icon on the upper left of the screen



◆ When the menu slides open, click on "Settings." Under "Notification (All Agencies), click on CPR

◆ Click on the menu app again and return to the home screen.

If a person stops breathing or CPR is needed and 911 has been called, you will receive an alert on your phone if you are within 1/4 mile of the victim. The PulsePoint app map will show you where the victim is as well as your location.

Tell us about the University Avenue Corridor

You have until June 30 to let us know what you think about the University Avenue Corridor!

As we told you last month, West Des Moines and Clive have joined forces to create a coordinated redevelopment plan for the area between 22nd Street/NW 86th Street and I-35/80.

Known as the University Avenue Corridor, this area has been a long-standing center for retail and office within the Des Moines metro area.

To obtain the community's input and help guide decision-making and prioritization for this plan,

[we've created a project website with a series of engagement exercises that will be open to the public through June 30.](#)



We invite you to take part in a **mapping activity** by sharing your ideas with us and by highlighting areas of the corridor that you like and areas that need improvement. You also can take a **short survey** and help us **prioritize** possible improvements to the area. Visit the project web-

site to learn more and start sharing your thoughts with us!

2020 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

**Spring Cleanup will now take place from July 20–24
on your regular collection day**

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

Metro Waste Authority’s is adding residential trash drop-off to the services offered at the Metro Northwest Transfer Station in Grimes

Beginning Saturdays in May, residents can bring typical household garbage, and large items, such as mattresses or furniture, to the Northwest Drop-off. This means items that would usually require a large item or extra trash sticker can now be brought to the drop-off instead for a fee. **With Spring Cleanup postponed until July, this provides a convenient location to dispose of trash and large items.**

The northwest location also offers compost for purchase by the bag and free recycling drop-off, including cardboard. To ensure safety, hazardous waste will not be accepted at this time. In addition, appliances, tires, yard waste, and construction and demolition materials are not accepted and must be taken to the landfill.

Metro Northwest Transfer Station in Grimes is located at 4105 SE Beisser Drive, just a half-mile west of IA-Hwy 141. Once at the site, look for a small brick building in the center. Pull across the scale and up to the window for a quick chat with staff who will get you on your way. For rates and information, visit www.WherItShouldGo.com or call (515) 244-0021. Hours on Saturday are from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

