



August  
2025

## West Des Moines eNewsletter

# WDM partial Special Census in full swing!

West Des Moines's **partial Special Census** is under way to get a more accurate count of our population in growing areas of the city.

Residents in the count areas who did not complete their questionnaire online will soon receive a visit from a field representative who will knock on their door to collect responses in person to make sure everyone is counted.

All Census workers will carry a U.S. Census Bureau photo ID badge, and no one will ever be asked for sensitive information, such as a Social Security number, checking account number or financial information.

### Why answer the Census?

Residents are asked to answer Census questions so the city can document its growth and qualify for additional funds for services residents depend on every day. If our population has grown, West Des Moines may receive an additional \$5.6 million in Road Use Tax Revenue over the course of the next five years. All information is confidential, and the law applies whether or not you are a U.S. Citizen. No one can obtain personally identifiable



data. [Visit our website to learn more about the Census](#) or apply for a temporary Census position!



**Labor Day** : City Hall and most City offices will be closed on **Monday, September 1**, for the holiday.

Garbage collection will be delayed one day for the rest of the week, with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

*Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!*

Connect with us!

[www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov)



## Central Iowa Water Works update on nitrate levels



Central Iowa Water Works announced that residential and now commercial lawn watering can resume on a schedule.

**Even-numbered addresses** may water on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. **Odd-numbered addresses** may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Watering is not permitted on Mondays.

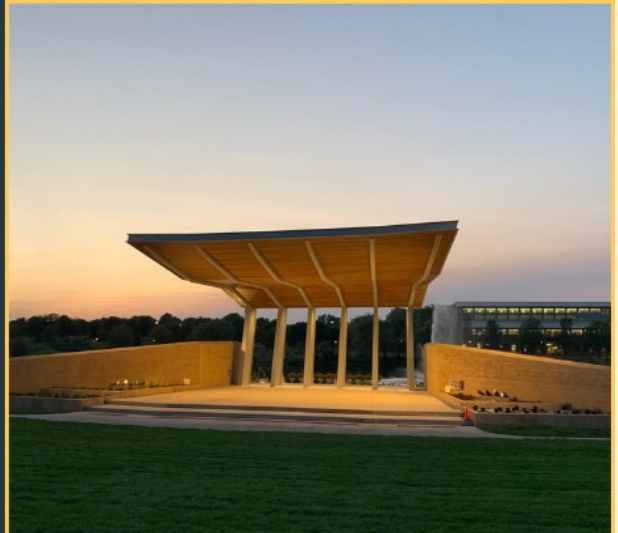
For the latest updates, visit [Reliable Drinking Water for Central Iowa | Central Iowa Water Works](#).



**FREE | 6-8 PM  
SUNDAYS**

### FEATURING LIVE MUSIC & FOOD TRUCKS

- 7/20 THE FEEL RIGHT**  
SNAPPY STICK FIRE BBQ & STREET SWEETS
- 7/27 MAJOR BLUES & THE MUGSHOTS**  
ROADSIDE TACOS & WHIP DELIGHT
- 8/3 THE JUAN & ONLY**  
KARAM'S GRILL & FRUITS N SUCH
- 8/10 THE PUNCHING PANDAS**  
BEST SPUDZ & WHIP DELIGHT
- 8/17 JORDAN MESSEROLE**  
MALA'S KITCHEN & SWEET SWIRLS
- 8/24 JOSHUA SINCLAIR**  
TACOS WAY & STREET SWEETS
- 8/31 THE LAMPLIGHTERS**  
HOTSY TOTSY & BAAN VAAN ICE CREAM
- 9/7 THE GET DOWN**  
KULINARY KHAOS & FRUITS N SUCH
- 9/14 WEARY RAMBLERS**  
BORRACHO MEXICAN TACOS & BAAN VAAN



**Jamie Hurd Amphitheater**  
4100 Mills Civic Parkway  
West Des Moines

[wdm.iowa.gov/JHA](http://wdm.iowa.gov/JHA)

## Labor Day preparations



If mosquito populations are elevated, the Public Services Department will be out spraying various City parks in preparation for Labor Day gatherings. Spraying will occur, weather permitting, during the evening hours of August 25 through August 28.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Services Department at (515) 222-3480.



## Back to school safety is everyone's business



The safety of children walking to school is a top priority in West Des Moines!

With 59 school crossings serving 15 schools, it takes teamwork — parents, students, drivers, schools and city staff to keep routes safe.

Learn how you can help by visiting our website and searching for "School Crossing Safety."

*Let's work together to protect our kids and keep them safe!*



## THEIR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS



### PICK UP YOUR DOG'S WASTE

Applicable at the Dog Park, any West Des Moines park, or City property. Doo your duty!



Whether you're walking your dog in a park, on a trail or in your neighborhood, please remember to do your duty!

By working together, we can keep West Des Moines beautiful.

## Tauke selected to serve as Deputy Director

Paul Tauke, West Des Moines' Urban Forestry Supervisor, has been selected to serve as the City's new Deputy Director of Public Services. Tauke replaces Joe Cory, who retired earlier this year.

Tauke has over twenty-five years of supervisory experience and has worked as a private sector consulting forester and as a public sector forester for thirty-seven years.

He most recently served as the City Forester in Ames. He also was Chief of the Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau from 2007-2017.

During his time as Iowa's State Forester, he worked with stakeholders and legislators to create a \$500,000 forest budget line for Iowa's woodland health, changed Iowa Administrative Code to allow the State Forest Nursery to operate in a more businesslike manner, and wrote and was awarded over \$6 million in federal grant funding.



He also worked with foresters, wildlife biologists, and park managers to improve forest planning and management on State Forests, State Parks, and State Wildlife Management Areas.

His tenure with West Des Moines began when he was selected to serve as Urban Forestry Supervisor in April of 2022.

Paul is highly skilled at planning, building partnerships and grant writing. Since 2022, the City of West Des Moines has been awarded almost \$900,000 in tree planting grants through his efforts.

Tauke received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from Iowa State University and his Public Manager Certification from the State of Iowa and Drake University.

## 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 directly to your inbox?

All you have to do is sign up for eUpdates and select the items you're interested in receiving!

Just visit our website at [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://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.

[You can also go directly to the signup page](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotification) by visiting [www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotification](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/eNotification).

Make sure to confirm your choices when the system sends you a confirmation email.

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

## Scrap Appliance & Metal Drop-off Event on Saturday, Sept. 6 8 a.m. to noon, Public Services East, 560 South 16th Street



***Take advantage of our Scrap Appliance and Metal Drop-off event!***

This is the perfect opportunity for residents to dispose of scrap appliances and/or metal items.

[For complete details, view the Scrap Appliance & Metal Drop-Off Event page on our website.](#)



## Community Compliance Corner



Did you know that City Code provides important guidelines for maintaining your property – not just to keep things looking nice, but to help ensure a safer, more livable community for everyone?

Watch these quick, 30-second videos to help you understand some common City Code topics:

- Junk & Debris – [Learn what's considered clutter and how to properly dispose of it](#) to keep your property clean and neighborhood-friendly.

- Sidewalk Trip Hazards – [Find out how small fixes can prevent big injuries and keep our sidewalks safe for everyone](#), especially kids, seniors, and those with mobility challenges.

Taking a few simple steps on your property can make a big difference for your neighbors and for the whole City. Thank you for doing your part, being a good neighbor, and helping keep West Des Moines safe, clean and beautiful!

## Improve your lawn by participating in SWAP



Summer is a great time to improve your lawn's health with Soil Quality Restoration (SQR). If you're already planning to aerate, take it a step further with SQR and use cost-share dollars to enhance your soil and grow a healthier, greener lawn.

With our [Stormwater Assistance Program \(SWAP\)](#), you can save while you restore your soil. SWAP covers 50% of costs, up to \$1,500, making it easier and more affordable to invest in your yard. Healthy soil is the foundation of a great lawn—enhance your soil quality and see the difference. Get pre-approved today! [Visit https://www.wdm.iowa.gov/swap](https://www.wdm.iowa.gov/swap).

# CHARGE into Fire Safety™

## Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this kind of battery.



LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES store a lot of energy in a small place. These batteries can overheat, start a fire, or explode if overcharged or damaged. By learning how to **BUY**, **CHARGE**, and **RECYCLE** these batteries safely, you can help prevent a fire in your home.



**BUY** only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.



**STOP** using your device right away if the battery smells weird, gets too hot, makes popping noises, changes in shape or color. If it is safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.



**CHARGE** devices safely. Always use the cables that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.



**RECYCLE** batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire.



**CHARGE** your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.



**RECYCLE** your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.



City of West Des Moines  
Fire Department

# The Smart Money Series at the WDM Public Library



Do you dream about buying a house but have no idea how you can do it financially? Are you interested in learning how you can boost your credit score to secure a better loan?

Come learn how to do that and more in ***The Smart Money Series***. Presented by Kyle Guldenpfennig and Charles Chedester, they will

take you through building a strong financial foundation, boosting your credit score, and will even help de-mystify the mortgage process. Registration is required.

- **Plan to Save: Setting Goals & Making Your Money Work for YOU!**  
*Tuesday, August 5 – 6:30 – 7:30 PM*  
Learn how to create savings strategies, set realistic goals, and prepare for big financial decisions.
- **Be a Savvy Borrower: Navigating the Mortgage Process with Confidence**  
*Tuesday, September 2 – 6:30 – 7:30 PM*  
Demystify lending, avoid common mistakes, and understand how to borrow wisely.
- **Prepare & Protect: Building Wealth and Securing Your Financial Future**  
*Tuesday, October 7 – 6:30 – 7:30 PM*  
Explore smart investing, homeownership strategies, and how to protect what you've built.

See Upcoming Event Highlights below. **Registration for August events opens at 9:00 AM on August 1.**



## **Navigating the Transition to Senior Living**

*Thursday, August 7 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Adults)*

In this educational program you will learn what steps can be involved in transitioning to senior housing and how to help plan for the changes ahead. No registration.



## **Teen “Get Growing” with the Budding Optimist - The Beauty of Bulbs**

*Tuesday, August 12 - 7:00 - 8:00 PM (Adults)*

Summer may be coming to a close, but it's nearly the perfect time to plant bulbs for a bounty of blooms next year. Please bring a notebook. Registration required.



## **Preschool Playtime with Heartland AEA**

*Wednesday, August 13 - 11:00 - 11:45 AM (Ages 2-6)*

Early Childhood Interventionists from Heartland Area Education Agency will be available to provide information on meeting milestones and development while children explore a variety of centers. Registration required.



## **Swedish Death Cleaning 101**

*Tuesday, August 19 - 7:00 - 8:00 PM (Adults)*

Swedish death cleaning is the thoughtful and effective method of organizing and decluttering. People of all ages and life stages can use these techniques to calm the clutter chaos in their lives. Registration required.

## Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

→ September 6	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off, 8 a.m. — 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services East, 560 S. 16th Street
December 5	Yard Waste Pickup Ends
Dec. 29, 2025 — Jan. 9, 2026	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

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

## School supply distribution for qualifying households

West Des Moines Human Services will be holding its annual school supply distribution for qualifying, low-income households on August 12th.

**Registration is now open and continues through August 7th.** Proof of address and income verification is required. Must be a resident of West Des Moines. [Learn more about school supply distribution.](#)

**School physicals** are also offered for low-income, uninsured or under-insured youth at the [Valley Junction Free Medical Clinic](#) located at West Des Moines Human Services. No appointment necessary. Walk-ins are welcome on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (Check-in by 7:30 p.m.).

### School Supply Donations Needed

Fall is just around the corner, and West Des Moines Human Services needs your help!



They will be holding their annual school supply distribution for qualifying low-income West Des Moines residents on August 12th. Please consider donating supplies or making a monetary contribution which allows items to be purchased in bulk.

**Supplies needed include:** folders, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, glue, calculators, supply boxes, scissors, rulers, paper, backpacks, etc.

Please drop off your donation to the Human Services office at 139 6th Street by August 11th or [supplies may be ordered from their Amazon Supply List](#) and shipped directly to Human Services.

[Learn more about the school supply drive, email Human Services](#) or call (515) 222-3663.

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## Construction Updates



[Visit the City's website to learn more about Engineering and Parks and Recreation projects under construction.](#)

## WDM Human Services is a Healthy Kids Iowa site

West Des Moines Human Services is proud to serve as a site for Healthy Kids Iowa, a pilot program led by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS).

Through this Iowa HHS program, eligible families can receive expanded access to nutritious food throughout **June, July, and August**—including fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy items, grains, and proteins.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Households at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Households with children ages 4–18
- Households that have already self-attested to eligibility for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and have children ages 4–18



TEFAP Income Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

**Healthy Kids Iowa food items are available at West Des Moines Human Services during regular food pantry hours:**

### Monday:

8:30 AM – 3 PM

### Tuesday:

8:30 AM – 3 PM & 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM (arrive by 6 PM)

### Wednesday:

8:30 AM – 12 PM (Noon)

### Thursday:

8:30 AM – 3 PM

### Friday:

8:30 AM – 12 PM (Noon)

[Learn more about the Healthy Kids Iowa Program](#) by visiting the Iowa Health and Human Services website.

## English Language Learner classes

English Language Learner (ELL) classes will resume this fall at West Des Moines Human Services. Registration for the fall session is now open.

These free classes are designed to teach adults of limited English proficiency how to read, write and speak the English language. The classes focus on the fundamental elements of the English language (spelling, vocabulary, verb tense, grammar). Students are divided into beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.



The level of instruction is determined by assessment scores. The classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The next session begins on September 9th and ends on November 20th.

On-site childcare is available for ages two years to pre-kindergarten. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

[Learn more about the WDM Human Services ELL Program](#) or call (515) 222-3663.