

# The Front Line

For and About the City of Des Moines Employees



Volume 5 —No. 7 July 2002

Amelia Hamilton-Morris, Editor

## City of Des Moines Mission Statement

*To provide and maintain essential services that meet the collective basic needs of the citizens of Des Moines and to identify and seize opportunities for a higher quality of life.*

### THIS ISSUE

**City Animal Shelter  
Mascot Art Contest**

**Public Works  
Purchases Automated  
External Defibrillator**

**Franklin Library  
Celebrates  
20 Year Anniversary**

**Neighborhood  
Inspection Catches  
Illegal Dumper**

**Legal Department  
Welcomes  
Michael F. Kelley**

## Congratulations! Greg Chia, District Fire Chief

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Gregory Chia became the first Hispanic District Chief for the Des Moines Fire Department. He is one of nine District Fire Chiefs and is in charge of the five east-side fire stations. His promotion is a culmination of 17 years of dedicated service. He admits that learning and training are the building blocks of his success, and confesses he never wants to quit learning.

Chia was born and raised on Des Moines' west side. It was his neighbor, Don Smith, a former Des Moines firefighter and union president that inspired Chia to consider the fire department as a career. Chia said, "In my third year of college at Iowa State University, I realized I wanted to do something in my life



**Greg Chia District Fire Chief**

to help people." He took the test for becoming a fireman and was hired in

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Mosquito Season Marks the Start of Summer

The City of Des Moines' seasonal adult mosquito control program was launched in June and will continue, as needed, through the Labor Day weekend. Jack Hansen, of Neighborhood Inspection Division and his 3-man crew literally canvas the city and single-handedly take on the mosquito population. Between two shifts, the team keeps a count of species, detect larva and breeding pools, maintain disease control, and administer the insecticide spraying to the local neighborhoods. Due to another wet spring, the

staff is right on top of initiating the control program.

Hansen says that it is imperative to stay abreast of detection during the day. He and another staff member go on "patrol" looking for areas that could be breeding grounds and potential problems. They also maintain a chicken coop where the animals are tested for Encephalitis and other dangerous disease transmissions. The team works closely with the Disease Control unit at Iowa State University to

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*  
Greg Chia



March of 1985.

Chia oversees Station #7 on East 12<sup>th</sup> and Euclid, Station #3 at Hubbell and Easton, Station #2 at East 18<sup>th</sup> and Walnut, Station #6 on Southeast 6<sup>th</sup> and Hartford, and Station #10 on Indianola Road, just north of Army Post Road. When there is a fire alarm in his district, he assumes command from the first officer when he arrives on the scene. He also has responsibility for personnel, training, and education for civilians.

"We need to promote fire safety education to a greater degree," Chia stated. "It is the first line of defense as a precautionary measure to make sure things don't happen."

Chia says that the service that Des Moines provides, both in fire suppression and in Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is top-notch and is on the upper proportion nationally. "A city of compa-

rable size, Lincoln, Nebraska, didn't even have EMS service on a public level until a year-and-a-half ago, and now they send their City medics to Des Moines for training," he added.

Chia says the most gratifying part of the job is the appreciation you receive from family members after a resuscitation effort on a "code call." Then there are things that aren't as pleasant to see like incidents involving kids and abuse.

Chia says his goal, as a District Chief, will be to make as smooth a transition as possible without making drastic changes. His emphasis will parallel his rise up the ladder with education and staying on the cutting edge of technology with equipment, techniques, and training. He concludes, "I never want to become stagnate, and I want the Des Moines Fire Department to continue to stack up as one of the best in providing excellent service to the community!"

## City of Des Moines Animal Shelter Mascot Art Contest



The Animal Control Unit is looking for a new mascot for the shelter. The winning entry will be used to represent the City of Des Moines Animal Shelter.

Children, in kindergarten through fifth grade are encouraged to participate in the contest. All entries should be an outline drawing of a cat, dog are both. Final entries will be judged by the Des Moines City Council. The winner, runner-ups and other categories will be recognized at a special ceremony. The entries become property to the City of Des Moines.

The deadline to submit entries is August 31, 2002. One entry per child can be submitted. All participants must be Des Moines residents.

Entries may be taken to the City Animal Shelter or mailed to:

City of Des Moines  
Animal Shelter  
1615 S.E. 15th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50320

For more information call  
515-242-2720.

## Home Run Readers



The library's summer readers do not want to miss the Iowa Cubs special Home Run Reader Night on July 30, 7:05 p.m. at Sec Taylor Stadium. The Iowa Cubs are adding to this summer's excitement with additional incentives to read throughout the summer. All types of prizes and reading awards will be provided. Readers must meet the designated reading requirements to receive the two free tickets. For more information please call 283-4152.

*(Continued from page 1)*  
Mosquito Season

analyze and monitor samples that help to maintain a disease-free environment in Des Moines.

Two other staff members of the mosquito control team come to work at 7:00 p.m. to prep the Ultra-Low Volume Sprayer (ULV) trucks for the application of the insecticide. They use an agent called Anvil that is very safe and has the correct amount of DEET (active ingredient) to control mosquitoes, but not pollute the city environment. All spraying is done in lieu of weather conditions. If citizens have allergies or respiratory problems, they can call and have their residence added to the "Do Not Spray List."

Hansen says that early spring

and early fall are traditionally the worst times for mosquito infestation, but any run of wet weather can pose a problem. He encourages people to wear long-sleeves and pants during the mosquito prevalent hours, dusk and dawn, and avoid outside activity during those times. Use a small application of mosquito repellent with at least 15% DEET to keep them away.

If you would like to report mosquito related problems or if you would like further information regarding our mosquito control program, you may phone the office of Neighborhood Inspections at 283-4046 during regular business hours throughout the summer.



Michael F. Kelley  
Assistant City Attorney

Michael F. Kelley joined the Litigation arm of the Legal Department as an Assis-



## Kelley Joins the Legal Department

tant City Attorney on April 23, 2002.

Michael is a native of LeMars, Iowa. He graduated from Gehlen High School, Harvard College, and University of California - Hastings College of Law.

Michael began his legal career with a law firm in San Francisco, California. He then worked in Miami, Florida in the private sector before taking a position with a company in central Florida as general counsel and administra-

tive vice president.

Michael also served in the State of Florida's Attorney General's office in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Michael recently married Dorothy J. Kelley (formerly Dorothy Stick) the Assistant Director for the Public Library of Des Moines.

He has two children, Kathleen and John. Let's give a special thanks to Dorothy for bringing Michael back home to Iowa. .

## Public Works Purchases Automated External Defibrillator

By Rod Biondi



You have heard about the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the media.

Now Public Works has purchased one that will be placed in their new 24-hour Call Center to benefit customers and employees alike. The Public Works Department trained 100 people to administer first aid, CPR and to use the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

You may be asking yourself, "What is an AED and what does it do? Well, an AED can apply an electric shock to a person who has experienced a cardiac arrest. An estimated 250,000 Americans die from cardiac arrest each year. The American Heart Association estimates that a cardiac arrest victim's chance



Bob Fontanini is the operator of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

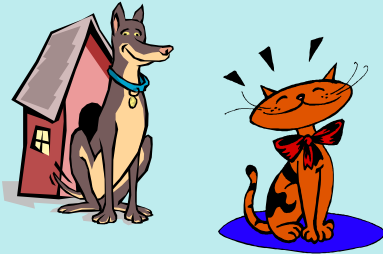
of survival decreases ten percent with every passing minute. The Heart Association estimates that readily available AEDs can save 100,000 lives annually.

The Safety Committee and the Public Works Director, Bill Stowe, supported placing the AED in our environment. Believing that we should take care of one another, Bill has demonstrated a firm com-

mitment to the safety of our customers and our employees. An on-going training program, led by John Averill and Lance Berlovich of the WRF Division, has trained over 50 plant employees. This brings the department to over 150 trained and certified CPR responders.

Joe Case, a Plant Field Worker at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility, has already put his training to good use by using an AED to monitor an elderly lady on a recent flight. This elderly person complained of chest pains while 10,000 feet in the air. Joe placed the unit on the woman and monitored her condition until they safely landed. One more way the Public Works Department lives up to its motto, "Protecting the Public's Safety, Health, and Waterways."

**Penalty For License  
Purchased After  
JULY 1**



Des Moines residents who did not renew or purchase their dog license by July 1, 2002 must now pay a penalty fee. Dog licenses for 2002 should have been purchased by January 1, but the City offered a six-month grace period that expired on June 30, 2002. The penalty for not renewing before July 1 is an additional \$5 added to the license fee.

The City's Ordinance requires all dogs six-months old and older to have a license. License fees are \$25 for unaltered dogs, and \$10 for dogs that have been spayed or neutered. Special rates are available for Senior Citizens.

For information call the City Clerk at 283-4125.

**Solid Waste Holiday Collection Schedule 2002**

The Public Works Solid Waste Schedule has been changed to better serve our residents. Solid Waste will no longer collect refuse on Independence Day and Labor Day. Since many workers are given the day off for these holidays residents did not expect solid waste collection to take

place. Trash is also not collected on Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's Day. To better serve residents, the City will be delaying collection one day during holidays. The remainder of the holiday collection schedule will remain unchanged. See the holiday collection schedule below:

| <b>HOLIDAY</b>                  | <b>DATES</b>                        |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Independence Day                | No collection – delayed one day     |
| Labor Day                       | No collection – delayed one day     |
| Veterans Day                    | Normal collection                   |
| Thanksgiving Day                | No collection—delayed one day       |
| Additional Thanksgiving Holiday | Delayed one day due to Thanksgiving |
| Additional Christmas Holiday    | Normal collection                   |
| Christmas Day                   | No collection – delayed one day.    |

**New Guidelines for SCRUB Days**

The Community Development Department continues its efforts to make Des Moines a clean and beautiful city. In cooperation with neighborhood associations, the city schedules SCRUB events from April through October. **THESE EVENTS ARE FOR CITY RESIDENTS ONLY.** Commercial haulers are not allowed to utilize the Saturday SCRUB program.

The neighborhood associations organize and publicize the SCRUB events. The City pays the costs for the 40-yard roll off containers, the tipping fees at the landfill, and provides some security at the SCRUB site.

About 1,010 tons of trash and debris are removed each year through this special effort of

neighborhoods and the City.

Because of changes in landfill requirements, washers, dryers, dishwashers, microwaves, stoves, and hot water heaters can no longer be taken to a SCRUB event in the City of Des Moines. In addition, any appliances with freon such as refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, etc are also not accepted at SCRUB events.

You can call the Public Works Department at 283-4595 to schedule these appliances to be picked up at your curb. The City will remove bulk items, but you must call in advance.

Hazardous materials such as oil, paints, batteries, pesticides, fertilizers, antifreeze, etc. are not permitted at a SCRUB event. Residents can dispose of these and

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Book Discussion Group Celebrates 22 Years

### Franklin Library Book Drive

Five eighth grade students from Holy Trinity School planned/coordinated an all school book drive for the Franklin Library in April of 2002. Hannah Laird a student from Holy Trinity called the Franklin Library branch manager, Kathy Bognanni, and asked if five students from Sister Regis' religion class could collect books for the library book sale table.

The five students were Hannah Laird, Emmalyn Kayser, Thomas Oertli, Emily Marble, and Cassandra Boston.

The book drive was a big success and 1,300 children's books were donated. Kathy added she was especially pleased "many of the paperbacks donated were brand new!"

The library will make good use of the donated books, adding many of them to the collection, using others in the summer reading program, and selling the rest on the sale table. Thank you Holy Trinity School from the Public Library of Des Moines.



Visit the PLDM website at [www.desmoineslibrary.com](http://www.desmoineslibrary.com) or call 283-4152. **IT IS NOT TO LATE TO JOIN.**



From left to right: Mary Newton, Jane Miller, and Lena Mason

Congratulations! The South Side Library book discussion group just celebrated their twenty-year anniversary. Chuck Kolb founded the discussion group in May 1982. The group consisted of approximately ten regular library patrons. Three of the original members still attend: Lena Mason, Mary Newton, and Mary Erickson. Over the years, twenty additional women have attended the monthly discussions.

The discussion group has met on the first Thursday of every month since May 1982, and the members have a long list of the books to prove it! Nyla Wobig, branch manager at the South Side Library, said "the time for fellowship and getting acquainted is as much fun as the actual book discussion." Member, Lena Mason, has faithfully kept a list of names and addresses of the members over the years. The library staff maintains a database of the books that have been read and discussed over the years.

The groups favorite discussions have taken place with the authors/relatives. The author's

and relatives include Ann McNichols, author of *Falling from Grace*, Elmer Adrian, the 90-year-old author of *Thorson's Bay*, and the family members

of Peter Hedges attended the discussion of his book, *An Ocean in Iowa*. At least seven librarians have lead the discussions in the past twenty years: founder Chuck Kolb, Ann McNichols, Gary Bisignano, Marcia Klueppel, Chris Shelton, Carla Vox, and Nyla Wobig. Everyone is invited to join the lively group at 2:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. New members are always warmly welcomed.



From left to right: Ellen Myer, Mary Erickson, and Karan Couchman.

### Summer Reading Program

Children participating in the PLDM Summer Reading Program will improve reading skills. They also become eligible to win grand prizes and reading awards such as free T-shirts, bicycles and more. **To become eligible children must complete a reading book log available at any of the six PLDM locations.**

## N.B.S.D. Team and Neighborhood Inspector Catches Illegal Dumper

By: Ben Bishop

This is a simple story. A story of how two city departments and concerned neighbors worked together to make a small difference on a big mess one spring day.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Jeff Aldridge, DMPD, a member of the Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Team, (NBSD) received a call from a neighborhood activist who stated that she had seen a black shiny truck with out of state plates dump a load of junk and debris in her neighborhood. Jeff reported directly to the scene, but it doesn't take long to push a load of trash off the back end of a truck. The vehicle was long gone by the time Jeff arrived.

Jeff called Inspector Ed Leedom, Neighborhood Inspections Division, also a member of the

NBSD Team and gave him the information.

Ed put two and two together and reasoned that the out of state truck could be owned by the people from Oklahoma he had served notice on two weeks earlier, instructing them to clean a vacant lot they owned in the neighborhood. They had called earlier in the day to say they were in town to get the job done.

Ed alerted the Neighborhood Inspections Division (NID) receptionist to call him if the folks from Oklahoma came to the office. Five minutes later the violators showed up in the NID office. Ed arranged to meet them at their property. He then quickly called Sgt. Aldridge and arranged to have him meet them as well.

Leedom and Aldridge congratulated the couple on the fine job they had done cleaning the lot then interrogated them on the illegal dumping. They confessed. Aldridge issued a \$100.00 littering ticket and Leedom filed a \$500.00 Municipal Infraction .

They all returned to the crime scene where the illegal dumper put the trash back on the truck with the Oklahoma plates and Ed directed him to the landfill. Oklahoma is not always OK.

While all this was transpiring three additional neighbors had each gone through the junk and called Ed with the suspect names. All in all this is a clear case of the city partnering with neighbors to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

### Franklin Librarian Linda Vlaming is nominated Super Reader



The Public Library of Des Moines (PLDM) librarian Linda Vlaming of the Franklin Library has been nominated as a super-reader. Linda is well-known for creating and sharing lists of new fiction and mysteries books that PLDM has on order. Recently one of Linda's long-time customers moved to the south side and requested that this service come with her! PLDM customers will be inter-

ested to know that:

- Linda's forthcoming books list has been posted on our web site. To access the list from the library's homepage, customers can simply click on the link for **A Good Book To Read**. You will get to our mega-list of interesting books. Near the top are two brand new links for **NEW FICTION ON ORDER** and **NEW MYSTERIES ON ORDER**.
- Customers can then click into the PLDM catalog and place holds for these items online.
- These lists have also been added to the **BEST SELLER** function on the Windows-based public access catalogs in all six library branches.

*(Continued from page 4)  
Scrub Day guidelines*

other hazardous materials at the Regional Collection Center, 225 Prairie Drive, Bondurant, Iowa 50035.

For information call 515-967-5512. Summer hours for the Regional Collection Center are every Saturday 8 – 2 p.m. through Labor Day.

The Center is also open weekdays Tuesday – Friday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions about what can be taken, give them a call.

**For A Scrub Day  
Schedule Call  
283-4180**

## 10,000 Pelicans Expected for Pelican Festival

Coming Sunday, September 15



The Polk County Conservation Board invites the general public to join the celebration of the third annual *Pelican Festival* by observing the incredible gathering of the American white pelicans at Jester Park. Sunday, September 15.

That's right, pelicans in Iowa! The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Camp Area #4 in Jester Park.

As many as 10,000 pelicans can be found on the lake from mid-August through September. Spectators can view the pelicans through high-powered spotting scopes and listen to a variety of educational programs throughout the day. Bring your children to the "Kids Tent" for games and other fun projects. Free entertainment opportunities will await people of all ages. Refreshments will also be available for purchase.

Saylorville Lake has become the site of a natural wonder rarely seen anywhere else. It is the amazing gathering of American white pelicans en route to their southern wintering grounds. Jester Park's

Camp Area #4 is one of the best viewing areas to see these magnificent birds.

Begin making plans now for a trip to northwest Polk County on Sunday, September 15. Jester Park in Granger, IA, can be easily accessed from Highway 141, approximately six miles north of Grimes. Turn north off Highway 141 onto NW 121 St. until you reach the T-intersection. Turn east at the T-intersection and keep left until you arrive at the park entrance. Park maps and more information can be requested by calling (515) 323-5363 or by visiting the Polk County Conservation Board website at [www.conservationboard.org](http://www.conservationboard.org).

The festival is being sponsored by Polk County Conservation Board, Iowa Audubon, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Saylorville Lake. Fall is an exciting time on the lake. Be part of the excitement and bring your binoculars!

View the Frontline on  
the city web at  
[dmgov.org](http://dmgov.org)

## Service Plus

Citizens' response to City Employees.

Dear DMTV:

On behalf of the Rock In Prevention Board of Directors I thank you for the great job you have done supporting our recent effort with the music video 9-11 Stand Tall America. I personally and my board members have received literally several hundred comments from people in the community on seeing the Stand Tall America video on your station. The public service announcements that you run for us are helping us have a record shattering year of over 80,000 lowans involved in our program in a year where schools have suffered a lot from state budget cuts.

I give you a lot of the credit for helping us reach so many kids and empowering us to teach them how to live happy, healthy, successful lives.

You at DMTV are directly helping us positively effect hundreds of thousands of Iowa children and their families. Many of our high school mentors and their families and friends have seen their spots on the station as well and it really gets them fired up about their involvement helping the younger kids learn refusal skills to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, violence prevention, life skills and character education. For that I can not ever thank you enough. Thank you for all your help and we look forward to your future support!

Sincerely,  
Pat McManus,  
Executive Director  
Rock In Prevention

## City Launches Pilot Recycling Project

*New technology to yield data on usage*

The City of Des Moines launched a pilot recycling project that will take place on the city's south side. On June 26, 2002, at Weyerhaeuser Inc, 2744 East Market Street, officials unveiled a new way to track participation in Metro Waste Authority's (MWA) residential recycling program, Curb It!®.

About 10,000 homes in the Easter Lake area of Des Moines are the subjects of a two-month test-run of new data-gathering equipment supplied by MWA. MWA received a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the purchases of Global Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies which will help the city track which households participate, how often they participate, and what they put in their green bins.

While Central Iowa residents using Curb It! have helped to divert more than 130,000 tons from the Metro Park East Landfill since the program began eight years ago, there has been a downward trend in the amount of material collected. This trend continues even while recycling costs are rising both locally and nationally.

"We want to be sure we're providing the best possible recycling option to our residents," said William Stowe, Public Works Director for the City of Des Moines. "These first few months, we're only going to be gathering data – this is just the first of many steps in this process. Our ultimate goal," he said, "is to find out if and how we can



improve the recycling program cost-effectively to increase how much is collected and how many people participate."

Weyerhaeuser and Barker Lemar Engineering Consultants are also partners in the pilot project.

*Metro Waste Authority (MWA) is a quasi-governmental agency that was formed in 1969. Governed by an elected official from each of its 17 member communities, the purpose of the agency is to properly manage all solid waste generated within the Central Iowa area. MWA manages the Metro Park East Landfill, the Metro Compost Center, the Metro Transfer Station and the Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Materials. MWA also coordinates residential recycling programs, including Curb It! and Compost It!™, for its member communities.*

**W a t c h**  
**City of Des Moines**  
**Cable Channel 7**  
**City Watch Reports**  
**Pet of the Week**  
**Job Postings**  
**Announcements**



## Turning Back the Clock

*City Wellness Committee*

A six month program of moderate exercise can improve middle-aged men's health according to health experts. Walking, jogging or using a stationary bike four to five times a week turned back the cardiovascular fitness clock 30 years for a small group of middle-aged men.

The aerobic exercise allowed men to boost their aerobic performance by 15% to a point about equal to their fitness level at age 20.

The men started out exercising twice a week for 15 minutes, then gradually increased their activity each week so that at six months they were exercising about one hour a day four to five days a week. (Source: Circulation, Volume 104, Page 1350).



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