



CITY OF **DES MOINES**

CITY SOURCE

Your Direct Link To City Hall

January 2009

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Blue Cart Recycling A Big Success

The City's new Blue Cart Recycling program for residents has already shown a 25% increase in the amount of material being recycled. In November, Public Works completed the delivery of the new wheeled recycle carts to Des Moines households as a part of the new automated single stream recycling program. Judging from the increase in participation, citizens like the convenience of the new program. After the holidays is a great time to recycle, remember these recycling tips:

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CITY OF **DES MOINES**

City Steps Up Flood Protection

The City of Des Moines is taking aggressive action to further protect the community from flood disasters. The near record flood event of this past summer has prompted the City Council to accelerate work projects that will provide enhanced flood protection and storm water management. To fund the necessary improvements, Council approved a series of Public Works sponsored storm water utility rate increases which will generate approximately \$2.8 million of additional revenues for the City's Storm Water Utility.

The increases will be effective January 1 of 2009, 2010, and 2011.

- Court Avenue / Water Street sewer separation project that includes a new storm water pump station.
- Pump station improvements that provide for more reliable backup emergency power.
- Levee improvements along M.L.King, Central Place and Birdland.

The City Council also approved a Private Property Protection Program to provide an incentive for property owners to protect their properties and to remove sources of clear water entering the public sewer. The program helps property owners pay for the cost of materials and labor for these improvements.

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City Plans for Projected Budget Shortfall

It seems like every day there is more news across the nation about the economic downturn and its impact on people. Many households and businesses in Des Moines are feeling the effect and the City of Des Moines is no exception. The city is currently working on the budget for the next fiscal year 2009/2010 which begins July 1, 2009.

Based on the best information we have, the City's General Fund is currently showing an estimated \$5.9 million dollar shortfall, assuming no change in the property tax rate. Property taxes are the largest source of revenue for the City's General Fund and from this fund the city provides police and fire protection, parks, planning, libraries, and other services.

Over the past several years the city has encountered similar shortfalls, because of the "structural deficit" inherent in city financing.

The problem is city revenues do not increase at the same rate as expenses, so projected annual budget shortfalls are a common occurrence. City leaders say every effort will be made to reduce expenses and minimize the impact on services. However, it is possible that some budget reductions may change, reduce, or eliminate some of the services currently provided.

The city has worked for the past several months with department directors and city staff to identify areas for potential cost reductions while avoiding impacts on frontline public safety. Those recommendations have

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Frequently Called Numbers

Animal License	283-4209
Birth Certificates	286-3781
Building Permits	283-4200
Bus Schedules	283-8100
City Assessor	286-3140
City Clerk	283-4209
Clerk of Court	286-3772
Consumer Protection	281-5926
DM Waterworks	283-8700
Driver's License Info	244-1052
Election Office	286-3247
First Call for Help	246-6555
Forestry	283-4950
Garbage Collection	283-4950
Information Center (City Hall)	283-4500
Jobline (City jobs)	283-4115
Library Information	283-4152
Mayor & Council Office	283-4944
Neighborhood Complaints	283-4046
Park & Recreation Info	237-1386
Parking Tickets	283-4125
Police (non-emergency)	283-4811
Polk County Information	286-3000
Potholes	283-4950
Property Tax	286-3060
State of Iowa Information	281-5011
Street Maintenance	283-4950
Tax Abatement	283-4751
Underground Lines	800-292-8989
Vehicle Registration	286-3030
Virtual Librarian (renew books)	283-4000
Visitor Information at CVB	286-4960
Weed Commission	286-3005
Zoo (Blank Park)	285-4722

City Hall

400 Robert D. Ray Drive
(formerly East First Street)
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1891
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Channel Cable 7 on MediaCom Cable

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Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie

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A City You Can Be Proud Of

As a nation we are experiencing difficult times and in Des Moines we feel the impact. I have hope for the future of our nation and our city, and here at home we have much to be proud of. A recent *CNN* article touted Des Moines as one of the best cities to find a job with a 1.2 percent job growth. *Forbes Magazine* ranked Greater Des Moines 4th as the Best Place for Business and Careers and noted that our business costs are "10 percent below the national average." *Forbes* also ranked Des Moines as #1 in the "Best Cities for Clean Drinking Water" in the country. Greater Des Moines ranked 9th in *Kiplingers Personal Finance*, list of top ten places to live. *Prevention Magazine* noted that Des Moines has the greatest number of parks per square mile compared to cities of similar size. Additionally, Des Moines ranked 25th on the Milken Institute's list of "Best Performing Cities" in the U.S.; the only area in the Midwest to make the list.

It will take resolve and hard work to get through these tough economic times and as a community we will face budget challenges. The Council and I are committed, as I know you are, to working together to build on our high quality of life here in Des Moines and the strong economic and environmental performance of our city.



Chris Coleman, At-Large

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Free Admission to the Zoo

I am pleased to serve the citizens of Des Moines on the Blank Park Zoo Foundation Board. I have some good news to share. Since

some lowans are facing financial difficulties and need an inexpensive place to relax and spend family time together; the zoo's employees and its nonprofit foundation decided this would be a good time to give back. City residents who need a break due to job loss or financial difficulties will be admitted to the zoo free until January 25.

The process to get free zoo admission is easy. Bring the family to the zoo, say "I want to Do the Zoo", and you're in free; no questions asked. All we ask is that if you can afford to pay, you do. But we won't question anyone. We trust lowans' honesty. The zoo's winter hours are Thursdays-Sundays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Directions and other information are available at www.blankparkzoo.com or call (515) 323-8383. The zoo is located at 7401 SW 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50315. The DART bus route #7 takes you to the zoo.

Over 70% of the animals are on exhibit during the winter (depending on weather conditions), including exotic birds in a lush rain forest with other animals and tropical fish. Outdoor exhibits will have more active tigers, lions, snow leopards and snow monkeys. Even the "fleeing flamingo" will be on exhibit for the public. Zoo staff reports that animals tend to be more active in cool weather. The zoo is a great place for a warm and cool winter break. Get out and enjoy what Des Moines has to offer.



Michael Kiernan, At-Large

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Winter Fun with Parks & Recreation

This time of year we all have a tendency to stay home and keep warm, but in Des Moines there are plenty of no-cost and low-cost things to get out and do. The Brooks Community Center, 2100 SE 5th, and the Four-Mile Community Center, 3711 Easton, have a wide variety of activities for residents of all ages to enjoy. They both offer indoor gymnasiums, weight and cardiovascular rooms, computer labs, Nintendo Wii, table tennis, pool, air hockey, and foosball. The last Friday night of each month, Brooks Community Center hosts a Family Night, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for children ages 16 and

under and their parents or legal guardians. This is a FREE event, so don't miss out.

You can also spend time ice skating and sledding at various parks in Des Moines. Greenwood Park, MacRae Park, Grand View Golf Course, and Gray's Lake Park all offer ice skating when the ice conditions are suitable – watch for the green flag! When snow conditions are right, free sledding is available at both Waveland and Grandview Golf Courses. Both skating and sledding activities are unsupervised, so adult supervision is recommended. Please join the fun and plan to compete in or attend one of the over 20 events scheduled for the 2nd Annual Des Moines Winter Games, January 30 - February 1. Some events are free; others have a nominal registration fee. Nearly all events are free for spectators and people can come and go as they wish. Go to www.dmparks.com for additional information. I encourage you to get out and enjoy these winter months.



Ward 1, Tom Vlassis

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Winter Safety

Winter is upon us again, and we can look forward to a lot of snow shoveling, cold weather, ice, and other winter hazards. Hopefully, everyone will recognize the need for caution while driving and walking so we all make it into the new year in good health. Remember the city's Snow Ordinance and clear sidewalks within 48 hours after the end of the snowfall. Public Works needs you to move vehicles off of the snow route streets to allow the plows to do their work. The designated snow routes need to be kept open to provide access on collector routes and main thoroughfares.

Come springtime, let Public Works know about needed road repairs (commonly known as potholes) by calling 515-283-4950. They do their best to respond as quickly as possible. Keep warm, happy and healthy and have a happy New Year.



Ward 2, Bob Mahaffey

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City Skate Park to Open Soon

The first Park and Recreation skate park facility, which is located at the Four-Mile Community Center, 3711 Easton Boulevard, promises to become an extremely popular draw for youth from the neighborhood and throughout the city as well. The 6,000-square-foot facility was designed by Site Design Group of Carlsbad, California, one of the leading skate park design firms in the country.

The serpentine design offers a combination of street elements and transitions appealing to a wide range of skaters as well as bike riders. The above-ground concrete-paved surface incorporates features such as a pyramid with grind rails, manual pad and grind ledge, quarter pipes, a bank, and a pump bump. Another amenity of the facility that is sure to prove popular is the skate park webcam; with a quick click on www.SK84Mile.org, friends will be able to see the tricks of fellow skaters or bikers, and families can check in on their children's safety. Special thanks goes to the Skate Park Citizen Advisory Committee that is comprised of youth, adults and city staff who have spent many hours in the planning and design of this facility and will continue to be active in the development of additional skate parks in other areas of the city.



Ward 3, Christine Hensley

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Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

While it may sound strange, I'm looking forward to tax season. For the past few years, the City of Des Moines has sponsored a site for

the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through United Way of Central Iowa. VITA provides free tax preparation assistance to low-income workers. In 2008, volunteers assisted more than 3,500 individuals at drop-in sites around the Des Moines area, yielding nearly \$4 million in returns. Given the current state of the economy, this program will be even more important in 2009 as many individuals and families are struggling to make ends meet. United Way will recruit 80 volunteers for the upcoming tax season. I hope many more volunteers will consider lending a hand. I've seen first-hand how the VITA program brings money back to hard-working citizens. For more information, contact Rachel Brown at 515-554-1417 or rbrown@unitedwaydm.org.



Ward 4, Brian Meyer

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Enterprise Zone Program

When I was elected, I pledged to vigorously pursue the same incentives that have revitalized downtown, west side and the north side. In October, the Council authorized the application to the Iowa Department of Economic Development for certification of a new Enterprise Zone. The zone is an "L" shaped, 478-acre area bordered by McKinley Avenue, SW 9th St, Army Post Road, South Union St, E. Porter Avenue, and SE 5th Street.

The Enterprise Zone Program is a special package of state tax incentives that was developed to encourage economic reinvestment. The benefits from the program can assist in the redevelopment of corridors and neighborhoods. Vacant, under utilized sites can have another layer of support to become businesses and housing units; and existing housing developments can experience needed rehabilitation. Since 1997, the program has assisted the City of Des Moines in the development of housing projects in areas such as the East Village and Court Avenue, and for downtown businesses like Wells Fargo and Wellmark. I will continue to vigorously pursue other economic incentives like the Enterprise Zone for the south side and east side.

Calls for Public Assistance

As the nation faces challenging economic times, Des Moines residents who may have never before needed assistance find themselves in need of help. The City's

First Time LIHEAP Applicants in October / November	
2008	927
2007	688
2006	366
2005	336
2004	203

Community Services Division has seen a 35 percent increase in new applications for assistance to pay utility bills. **Federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** can help pay a

portion of winter heating costs for households with a gross income at or below 150 percent of poverty. As of November 30, a total of 3,667 households requested help to pay utilities.

An approved LIHEAP application qualifies you for the Polk County Weatherization Program which can help with attic and side-wall insulation, furnace repair or replacement and general energy efficiency measures. Also through the Payment Planning Service you may be able to prevent disconnection or restore connection of your utilities. If you are a homeowner and you're having a problem with your furnace, you may be eligible for help with repairs through the City's Community Services office. Priority is given to the elderly and families with children.

If you are having difficulty making mortgage payments it's important to get help right away. Nationally, research shows that nearly 50 percent of people who are unable to pay their

mortgage never contact their lender or seek assistance from a trained counselor. **Iowa Mortgage Help** was created to encourage homeowners to call for help no matter the reason for their financial trouble and regardless of the severity of their situation.

A personal pantry (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, diapers, etc.) is maintained at the city's Sixth Avenue and Logan Site Offices. A food pantry is also operated at the Sixth Avenue Site Office in conjunction with the Des Moines Area Religious Council. Community Services can refer you to other programs providing assistance with food, school

lunches, commodities, senior meal sites, *Meals on Wheels*, or the food stamps program.

If you have recently lost your job, there are job placement services available through Iowa Workforce Development. Resources such as Hawk-I, which provides health insurance for Iowa children and families with limited income is available free or at a low cost. Call or visit the City Community Services site offices for resources and information on the various programs and their eligibility requirements.

DONATIONS: Many of these programs rely on federal and state funding as well as volunteer help and private contributions. To make a donation or to volunteer call Community Services at 515-283-4180.

Assistance Programs		
Community Services Division	515-283-4180	www.dmgov.org
Des Moines Area Religious Council	515-277-6969	www.dmreligious.org
Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	515-283-4180	www.dmgov.org
Food Stamps (DHS)	877-937-3663	www.dhs.state.ia.us
Iowa Mortgage Help Hotline	877-622-4866	www.iowamortgagehelp.com
Iowa Workforce Development (Jobs)	515-281-9619	www.iowaworkforce.org
Low Income Solid Waste Fee Subsidy	515-283-4950	www.dmgov.org
Meals on Wheels	515-288-3334	www.mealcall.org
Payment Planning Services	515-283-4180	www.dmgov.org
School Lunch	515-242-7911	www.dmps.k12.ia.us
Senior Services	515-286-3679	www.polkcountyiowa.gov/CFYS/pages/seniorAboutUs.aspx
Senior Meal Sites	515-286-3679	www.polkcountyiowa.gov/CFYS/pages/seniorMealSites.aspx
WIC	800-532-1579	www.idph.state.ia.us/wic/families.asp

DSM Airport Helps Find Low Fares

Who says you can't find cheap airline seats out of our city? Des Moines International Airport has added a new widget to their website called *airfarewatchdog*. It tracks low airfares to domestic and international destinations. This feature has been on the front page of the airport's website assisting travelers in finding "deals" for about six months. The service is a division of Expedia, but differs from most airfare *search* sites because they have already done the searching and make it easy to book your flight with an easy-to-access format.

Here's how it works; go to www.dsmairport.com; just click on any of the airfares of a city by scrolling within the *airfarewatchdog* window, and you're automatically linked to the *airfarewatchdog* website. Just book that flight, or sign up to get alerts sent to your email for destinations you'd like to travel. It is free to you and also free for the Des Moines

International Airport. The site is funded by advertising done on the linked site.

George Hobic, founder of the site and working widget says, "It is a win-win-win situation. The Airport wins because it drives traffic to their website and provides incentive for folks to travel from their facility. The customer wins by saving money on airfares. We win, because it draws them to our site."



New Rules for Transient Merchants

The City of Des Moines has passed two separate ordinances amending the rules governing the location and operation of transient merchants. The first ordinance was passed on March 24, 2008, and is now in effect. The second ordinance was passed on November 10th and will be effective on January 15, 2009.

Historically there have been two categories of transient merchants in Des Moines. Those that held an annual lease to the business site were exempt from the city's transient merchant regulations. Those without an annual lease were allowed to operate under authority of a transient merchant license for a term of 30 days, with unlimited renewals. Both categories have been allowed to leave their tents, trailers and other temporary facilities in place 24 hours a day. Neither category has been required to operate on a paved surface or to provide off-street parking.

In March, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 14,750; now any business selling food or merchandise from a temporary location or structure in the city must obtain a transient merchant license, with limited exceptions. Typical household garage sales as well as sales activities authorized under other city issued permits and licenses continue to be exempt from the requirement to obtain a transient merchant license.

Ordinance No. 14,807, which becomes effective on January 15, 2009, allows time for the existing transient merchants to make any changes to their business necessary to comply with the following new requirements:

1. Transient merchants must remove all equipment, temporary structures, temporary toilet facilities, garbage, and any vehicle or trailer used in the operation of the business from the site at least six hours out of every 24-hour period. The sale of raw fruits and vegetables, natural Christmas trees, live plants and nursery stock are exempt from this requirement.
2. All trailers, vehicles, tents, equipment, and areas used for the storage, display or sale of food or merchandise by a transient merchant must be located on a paved surface, and the site must provide at least three paved parking spaces.
3. Bathroom facilities must be provided for the business workers within 500 feet of the site. If the transient merchant sells prepared food, the bathroom facilities must also be available for customer use. For information contact the City Clerk at 515-283-4209, option 4.

MEDIACOM Customer Service Calls

As of May 29, 2007, cities in Iowa are no longer empowered to regulate cable company services due to a change made by the Iowa legislature via Senate File 554. Local franchises throughout the state have been replaced with state-wide franchises. The franchise agreement between Mediacom and the City expired June 30, 2008, no renewal was possible. Instead, the Iowa Utilities Board now grants Mediacom's application for a certificate of franchise authority to provide cable service.

If residents have comments or concerns about their cable service, the City of Des Moines is no longer the franchise authority and therefore cannot assist with complaints.

Residents should contact Mediacom directly by phone at **1-888-500-4847** or via their website www.mediacomcc.com



Flood and Private Property Protection

(continued from page 1)

The key elements of the program include:

1. A maximum of a \$1,000 subsidy per private property for the cost of materials and labor for qualified improvements to existing structures.
2. The work must have been performed between the dates of June 1, 2008, and June 30, 2011.
3. Items of work deemed eligible for the subsidy from the Private Property Protection Program are:
 - a) The installation of a backwater valve or sump pump.
 - b) The disconnection of roof leaders from the sanitary sewer service.
 - c) The installation or redirection of a sump pump to discharge flows from foundation drains and area drains to a non-sanitary sewer outlet, such as a rain garden, storm sewer or the ground surface.
4. Documentation of the cost for the qualifying improvement shall include a copy of an itemized invoice from a licensed plumber or plumbing firm that details the work performed and a copy of the full payment. All work must be performed by a licensed plumber.
5. A completed subsidy application form and supporting documentation must be submitted to the Department of Public Works no later than August 30, 2011.

Please remember, the account for the sanitary sewer fee charges on the property must be current in payments at the time of application. For more information see "Hot Topics" on the city web site at www.dmgov.org or call the Public Works 24-Hour Customer Service Center at 515-283-4950.

Hip To Des Moines

The City wants all young adults to get hip to what Des Moines has to offer! Here is a sampling of some of the venues and activities offered throughout the city. For your dining, relaxation, and entertainment pleasures your city has many options. Dining out is a favorite pastime and the city has restaurants offering a range of cuisines from the Western Gateway to Court Avenue. The East Village's night life and social atmospheres offer live music, dancing, dining, artistry and more.

Kiplingers Personal Finance, June 2008, ranked Greater Des Moines as 9th in Kiplinger's top ten places to live. *Forbes Magazine*, April 2008 ranked Greater Des Moines "4th Best Place for Business and Careers" for the second year in a row. *Forbes* also featured the area in a one-page article in its "Best Places" edition. *Forbes* notes that "Des Moines, with its sports arena, art center and heated 3 mile skywalk, now boasts an unemployment rate of 3.4% and business costs that are 10% below the national average."

The Young Professionals Connection (YPC) gives voice to the 20-to-30-something age demographic and is an extension of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. This group is a dynamic network of young leaders, helping to shape Des Moines into an exciting place to live, work and play. With over 500 members throughout the metro area, YPC's mission is to promote an environment that attracts and retains young professionals in the Des Moines metro area. YPC offers social, civic, charitable, and professional development activities. For more information about YPC visit their website at www.ypcdsm.com.

The Blank Park Zoo is not just for kids. During the chillier months the zoo's indoor Discovery Center is a warm break from the cold weather. Stroll through its tropical climates, exhibits and an engaging salt water aquarium. It is also available for rentals. Don't forget the Parks Department's 2009 Winter Games on January 30th & February 1st. Among the featured events are amateur snowmobile races, extreme cross country, "Snowbowl" flag football, snowboarding, Polar Plunge, fireworks and more; see the Park and Recreation Department brochure inside this newsletter.

Stay hip to Des Moines and visit the city website's at www.dmgov.org for upcoming programs. Get out and explore Des Moines and all it has to offer!

Youth in City Leadership

High school students from across the Des Moines metro area come together to form the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). They serve the Des Moines City Council, providing a voice for youth in city government. Their mission is to improve the community through youth involvement.

This year's board is comprised of teenagers from each high school in Des Moines Public Schools and Dowling Catholic, as well as three youth from community organizations, and five at-large representatives. The board also has adult representatives from Des Moines Schools, Des Moines Police Department, Parks and Recreation, Youth Emergency Services and Shelter, Iowa Homeless Youth Center, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA of Greater Des Moines, and the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

The YAB action plan for 2009 includes five goals:

1. Plan, organize, and host events for youth
2. Promote YAB to the community
3. Be involved in the community and reach out to youth
4. Connect with City Council
5. Have a policy focus

YAB is currently seeking students to fill two vacancies: a Hoover High representative and a youth member at-large. In order to serve you must reside in Des Moines or attend a Des Moines high school and must have time to attend all meetings and help plan various, year-round activities.

For more information, visit www.dmgov.org/youth.



City Plans for Projected Budget Shortfall

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been presented to the Mayor and City Council and suggest reducing the size of our workforce and privatizing operations where cost savings can be realized. "These were difficult recommendations to make, but it is essential that we take action to balance the budget" said City Manager Richard Clark.

Over the next few months the Mayor and City Council will consider the proposed budget and how it may impact the overall provision of city services. As always, these are public meetings and will also be broadcast on the DMTV Cable Channel 7. The tentative schedule for the City Council's approval of the budget is as follows:

- Jan. 5 - 23 - City Council & public review of the Operating Budget
- Jan. 23 - Operating Budget document delivered to the City Council
- Feb. 9 - Public input and informal hearing on Operating Budget and CIP
- Feb. 23 - Public hearing and City Council vote on Operating Budget and CIP

The City would like to hear from you. Residents' suggestions on budget issues and funding are welcomed as the City Council and the City Manager continue to look for ways to save money and determine priorities for the next budget year. Submit your budget ideas and/or cost reduction suggestions via the website, phone, or mail.

Do You Have Suggestions for Balancing the City Budget?

Tell us your ideas on how to fund local government or cut cost

WEBSITE:

<http://www.dmgov.org/departments/ic/Feedback/BudgetReductionIdeas.aspx>

CALL

City Information Center
515-283-4500

WRITE

Mail your suggestions to:
Information Center
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309

Chill Out and READ – A FAMILY WINTER READING PROGRAM

Families are invited to “Chill Out and Read” this winter. Now until January 30, families may pick up a reading log at their local library. For every hour that anyone in the family reads, just record the time. When the family has logged 40 hours of reading time, they can turn in their reading log at the library and enter a drawing for a very special family prize!

Anything goes – newspapers, books, magazines, audio books and graphic novels! Our goal is to get everyone into the reading habit and winter is a good time to cuddle up with a book! Studies show that the best way for children to get into the reading habit is by seeing their role models read.

Get Ready for the Big Read

The Des Moines Public Library will partner with the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa and the National Endowment for the Arts to present *The Big Read*. This initiative, which will begin in January and continue through February, aims to restore reading to the center of American culture by providing the opportunity for large communities to read and discuss a single book. This year’s event will be centered on the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston.

There will be many special events including a one woman play, “Queen Zora,” performed by Ruth Anne Gaines. There will also be a program given by Dr. Catherine Stewart, a professor of History at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, and a nationally-recognized expert on Zora Neale Hurston. Join us for movies, book discussions, storytelling, and craft times. Visit the library’s website for complete details.

Learn To Ride the BUS!

Learn all about bus fares, transfers, schedules and how to make the best use of public transit service. Free and open to the public, each session will last approximately 45 minutes and starts at 1:00 p.m.

January 13, 2009, Franklin Avenue Library

January 20, 2009, East Side Library

January 27, 2009, South Side Library

This training is a collaborative service of the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART), the American Public Transit Association, and the Des Moines Public Library. For more information about these training events, please contact Ms. Dee Howard, Independent Living Specialist at the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living at 515-243-1742, ext. 4 or by e-mail at ilspecialist@centraliowacil.com.

Old Des Moines Postcards

Dozens of treasured postcards, stored for years in the library’s Special Collections Department, will be on display thanks to a recent digitization project. A revolving slide show of the postcards will be available for viewing during the month of January during regular library hours at the Central Library. Take a trip down memory lane of old Des Moines.

Mobile Crisis Responds to Mental Health

The busiest time of the year for the Police Department’s Mobile Crisis Response Team is holiday season and immediately after. The team was created to assist all law enforcement within Polk County with mental health calls for assistance. When a police officer is sent to a call and there is a mental health concern, the officer has the option to call for a crisis worker for assistance. The crisis worker will assess the situation and the person in crisis, and then along with the officer they will decide the best course of action. The team answers calls in every type of setting which includes private residences, schools, group homes and businesses. The Mobile Crisis team does not respond without police.

Since its inception, the team has answered over 9,000 mental health calls which has helped to decrease the amount of time an officer spends on this type of service call from 3.5 hours to 22 minutes and has shown an average savings of \$132,000 annually for the City.

In 2008, more than 1,277 calls for service were answered. The team was recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police as one of the top ten finalists for the 2008 Webber Seavey Award. This award honors police departments for promoting a standard of excellence that exemplifies law enforcements contribution to quality of life in communities.

The Mobile Crisis Response Team continues to be an important part of the way police departments in Polk County do business. For more information contact Senior Police Officer Kelly Drane at 515-283-4988.



Brian Jones, (back row) Torry Simmons, Diana Gliem, Karen Ellis, Connie Hoffman, (front row left to right) Dave Spieker, Mary Elliot, Cynthia Steidl and Caroline McCard

Blue Cart Recycling A Big Success

(continued from page 1)

- Wrapping paper – if it’s paper and it tears, it’s recyclable
- No ribbons, foil wrap, or bows; save these for reuse.
- Hard plastic “shells” and Styrofoam are not recyclable
- Cardboard boxes are recyclable and should be broken down to fit in the cart.

No more sorting – simply throw paper, glass, cans, plastics, and cardboard items into the wheeled cart. There has been no change in the recycle collection schedule or in the material collected. Recycle collection weeks are still highlighted on a calendar placed on the lids of the new blue carts. For more information please call the Public Works 24-Hour Customer Service Center at 515-283-4950.



Parking Meters Smart Cards \$5

(plus the dollar amount placed on the card)

Card vending machines accept cash, MasterCard or Visa (credit or debit).

Buy at 3 Locations

- 3rd & Court Parking Garage Office
- 9th & Locust Parking Garage Office
- City Hall Lobby, 400 Robert D. Ray Dr.

Use your Smart Card at downtown meters. Insert the card; buy time on a meter. Come back, insert card again; remaining value refunded back to your card.

1,000 downtown parking meters accept Smart Cards as well as coins.

Questions?

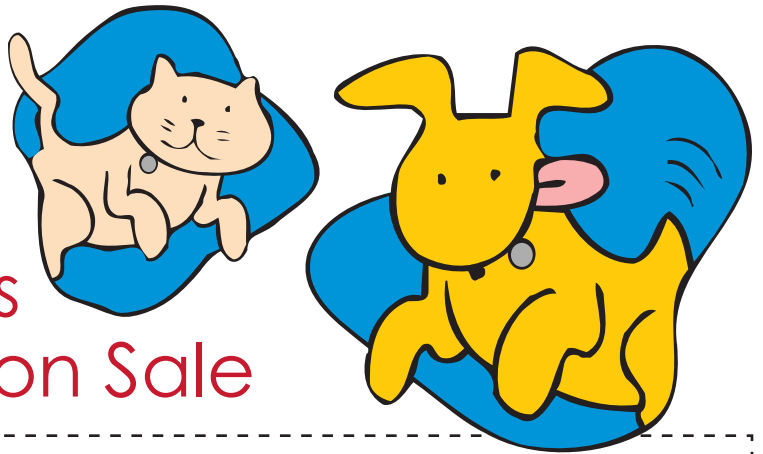
Call Traffic and Transportation Office
515-283-4973



CITY OF **DES MOINES**
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1891

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 4839
ECRWSS

Residential Customer



2009 Animal Licenses Now on Sale

All dogs and cats 6 months of age and older must be licensed each year. Purchase of an animal license is required by City Ordinance and is the best insurance that your lost pet will be quickly returned to you. Renewal applications for 2009 were mailed to registered owners in December. Pet owners must provide their pet's proof of rabies vaccination. Cost of a license is:

- \$35 for non-spayed/non-neutered animals
- \$15 for spayed/neutered animals
- \$5 for citizens over 65, (first dog and first cat per household)

March 31st is the deadline to purchase a license without a \$50 late fee penalty! An application form is provided at right. The City Clerk's staff will be available to issue licenses from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at City Hall on the second floor. Additionally, on three Saturdays: January 3, February 7, and March 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the staff will be at the Animal Rescue League Adoption Center in Southridge Mall. Come out and enjoy demonstrations by the Police Department's K-9 unit. For more information call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209.

City of Des Moines 2009 Animal License Application

Owner's Name _____

Address _____

Des Moines, IA Zip _____ Phone Number _____

Dog or Cat (circle one)

Color(s): _____ Male or Female (circle one)

Spayed or Neutered (circle one) (must provide proof)

Breed: _____ Pet Name: _____

Rabies Tag Number: _____ Expiration Date _____

Return this form, rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter, and payment to:
City Clerk's Office, Animal License Division
PO Box 10326, Des Moines, IA 50306-0326
For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209