CONNECT AND SERVE
Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges

Inside:
- Connect and Serve
  Zuleyma Mendez Shares Her Story
- Civil and Human Rights Symposium
- Youth Recreational Scholarship Program
Chris Coleman won the At Large seat on the Des Moines City Council in the 1998 special election and maintained his position for the next five elections. He was the longest serving Council member with more than 20 years of service when he retired.

In a final message Councilman Coleman shared with his colleagues and constituents, he confidently proclaimed that the City of Des Moines has and continues to win, over and over again. He said, "While I'm sad to turn the page, I know that I walk off the field a winner." He acknowledged his co-workers, with appreciation and admiration, for tireless efforts including being more committed, more innovative and harder working.

As a tribute to his career, the new pedestrian bridge over the Raccoon River, near downtown, has been named the Chris and Marcie Coleman Bridge.

### Councilman Coleman Retires

Carl Voss is the newest member of the Des Moines City Council. He replaces Chris Coleman, in the At Large seat, who retired after more than two decades of service.

Carl and his wife, Susan, have two children and six grandchildren. He has lived in Des Moines since 1971, where he started his journalism career, as a photographer and editor, for *The Des Moines Register*. Serving in that role allowed him the opportunity to learn more about the issues facing the people of the City and led him to become involved in many civic activities.

"I am ready to bring my diverse experience to each opportunity and work collaboratively to reach the best solutions for all Des Moines residents."

---

**City Hall**

400 Robert D. Ray Drive • Des Moines, Iowa 50309

(515) 283-4500 • info@dmgov.org

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**City Manager's Office**

(515) 283-4141

CityManager@dmgov.org

**Editorial Board – PIO@dmgov.org**

Al Setka ........................................ City Manager's Office
Laura Baumgartner ....................... City Clerk's Office
Manisha Paudel ............................. Civil and Human Rights
Lisa Crabbs ................................. Community Development
Chris Clement ............................. Fire Department
Jennifer Fletcher .......................... Parks and Recreation
Paul Parizek ................................. Police Department
David Derong ............................... Public Information Office
Tim Paluch ................................. Public Library
Shay Willis ................................. Public Works

---

**Council Meeting Dates**

**Mondays • 4:30 p.m.**

- **Feb 24**
- **Mar 9**
- **Mar 23**
- **April 6**
- **April 20**
- **May 4**

---

**Boards and Commissions**

Each year, the Des Moines Mayor and City Council members make appointments to 20 local boards and commissions, who in turn offer a wide variety of services to the City Council and residents of Des Moines. For more information, or if you're interested in becoming part of the public process or applying for an open position, please visit [DSM.city](https://www.dsm.city) or contact the City Clerk's Office at (515) 283-4209.
“Why don’t we do this in Spanish?”

It’s a question Zuleyma Mendez, a Des Moines Police Department (DMPD) customer service representative, asks frequently.

In her seven years with DMPD, Mendez has translated fliers, brochures and even full City ordinances into Spanish.

Born in El Salvador and raised in California, she spent much of her childhood interpreting for her mother before moving to Des Moines at the age of 19. As she began working with DMPD, Mendez found that her childhood skills translated wonderfully into her new home and career.

“I’m very thankful for being able to speak both Spanish and English,” said Mendez. “Even if I’m not at work—if I see someone struggling at a grocery store—I’m going to step in and translate.”

Mendez spends much of her time helping Des Moines’ Latinx residents feel at home in Iowa. In addition to teaching English classes at a local church, interpreting for families at Des Moines Public Schools conferences and serving on the City of Des Moines Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, she holds volunteer positions with Latinas Unidas Por Un Nuevo Amanecer, Latinx Immigrants of Iowa and Raices del Sur Iowa.

It was in her work with these organizations that a question Mendez often poses to others, was posed to her.

“Why don’t we do this in Spanish?”

A nonprofit leader asked this in reference to Coffee with a Cop, a popular quarterly meeting between Des Moines residents and the police department.

Mendez brought the idea back to DMPD leadership. They jumped on board immediately, and Café con Tú Policía was born.

Now in its third year, the event draws hundreds of Latinx community members to each gathering. Nearly 500 people showed up at a Café con Tú Policía meeting last summer, listening to and sharing input with DMPD Chief Dana Wingert via translations by Mendez and DMPD Sgt. Yanira Scarlett.

“I was just in awe looking around at the room filled with people,” recalled Mendez. “They just wanted to listen to our Chief and it was empowering them to know that you need to feel comfortable coming to the police department. You should feel comfortable.”

“A lot of them—after we started doing Café con Tú Policía—they do. They feel like they can call a police officer and feel comfortable.”

DMPD provides several resources written in Spanish at each meeting, and Mendez works with local Latinx media to share information about Café con Tú Policía with the community. They also invite outside organizations to attend. Representatives from Primary Health Care spoke with residents at a recent meeting and answered questions about services they provide.

After the event, kids line up for photos with officers and families take time to network with police and one another. It’s an opportunity to build authentic relationships through candid conversations.

“We are always looking for new ways to connect with those we serve and grow the relationships we’ve built in our community,” said Chief Wingert. “Our commitment to protecting all who call this City home is unwavering, and we will continue our strong outreach programs to provide a community that has safe and vibrant neighborhoods for all.”

The relationship between police and residents is a partnership, Wingert says. DMPD plans to continue Café con Tú Policía and Coffee with a Cop well into the future.

Breaking language barriers is a small part of ensuring nothing is lost in translation. Mendez knows it takes hard work to truly understand one another, and she believes DMPD is up for the task.

“The bridges are already there but we have to continue making them stronger,” shared Mendez. “A large majority of our job here is making sure everyone feels comfortable and feels they’re being treated with respect and dignity.”

To stay up-to-date, follow the Des Moines Police Department on Facebook (@DMPolice) and Instagram (@desmoinespolice).
The Des Moines Public Library's annual year-long Reading Challenge is back, encouraging Des Moines residents to read 12 books in 12 months, with the opportunity to win cash prizes along the way.

Participants can register for the 2020 DMPL Reading Challenge all year long online, and readers must pick one book from each of 12 categories selected by library staff.

Participants that stay on track (log one book by the end of January or three books by the end of March, etc.) will be eligible to win prizes. One person will receive a $10 Visa gift card at the end of each month, and three people will receive a $20 Visa gift card at the end of each quarter. At the end of the year, anyone who has read at least one book in each of the twelve different categories will be eligible for one of the grand prizes. One person will win a $150 Visa gift card, and two people will win $50 Visa gift cards.

Participants may always catch up as well. For example: If someone is registered but does not finish three books by the end of March, they can finish four books by the end of April and be eligible for the monthly prize. Participants must be 18 or older.

Register for the 2020 DMPL Reading Challenge at [dmpl.org/readingchallenge](http://dmpl.org/readingchallenge). The full rules, reading suggestions, and more information can also be found on the website.

---

Library Now Open Longer

The library is now open longer each week thanks to Local Option Sales & Service Tax dollars.

**Central Library:** 1000 Grand Avenue
- Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.

**Franklin Avenue Library:** 5000 Franklin Avenue
- Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.

**East Side Library:** 2559 Hubbell Avenue
**Forest Avenue Library:** 1326 Forest Avenue
**North Side Library:** 3516 Fifth Avenue
**South Side Library:** 1111 Porter Avenue
- Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**New at the DMPL:**

**Flipster eMagazines**

The DMPL has added dozens of new digital magazines to read, for free, online at [dmpl.org/stream-download](http://dmpl.org/stream-download). Anyone with a Des Moines Public Library card can now download – on their computer, phone, or tablet – issues of magazines such as Time, Sports Illustrated, People, Entertainment Weekly, and more. Up to two years of back issues are also available. Flipster adds to the dozens of eMagazines already available for free at [dmpl.org/stream-download](http://dmpl.org/stream-download).

---

**Choose a Book…**

- By a 2020 AVID author
- That takes place somewhere you want to travel
- From your favorite genre
- By an author that doesn’t look like you
- Related to Iowa
- That’s been banned or challenged
- That came out the year you were born
- That’s been translated
- That has won a National Book Award
- About going on a quest or adventure
- By a debut author
- Written in a non-traditional format
The 34th Annual Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Drake University. Achieving progress and reaching a goal is similar to that of a farmer, it must be done diligently through planning and working, every season, hence the theme of this year’s event, Strategizing the Harvest.

**WINTER:** Planning and Strategizing for Success  
**SPRING:** Work, Execution (Planting), Awakening Time  
**SUMMER:** Sustaining, Tending, Looking for Weeds  
**FALL:** Harvest, Preservation and Preparing for the Next Harvest

Darrick Hamilton, Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University, is this year’s keynote speaker. He holds a primary faculty appointment in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, with courtesy appointments in the departments of economics and sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences at OSU.

Marisa Cummings, a member of the Omaha Tribe and the Director of Native Student Services at the University of South Dakota, is slated to speak at the end of the event. She previously served as the Chief of Tribal Operations for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa. Marisa has been working with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s movement.

The symposium is being held at the Drake University Olmsted Center located at 2875 University Avenue. Online registration can be completed at [dsmsymposium.eventbrite.com](http://dsmsymposium.eventbrite.com). For more information, visit [humanrightsdsm.org](http://humanrightsdsm.org).

---

### Now Hiring for Seasonal Positions

Des Moines Parks and Recreation is one of the largest seasonal employers in the area with hundreds of positions available each year. Applications are currently being accepted online for:

- Aquatics Cashier  
- Head Lifeguard*  
- Lifeguard*  
- Swim Instructor  
- Swim Lesson Supervisor*  
- Swimming Pool Supervisor*

*Certification required.

It is vital to the operation and management of facilities such as wading pools, aquatic centers and events such as the Free Flicks program that these jobs are filled. In 2019, more than 96,000 people visited City pools and 2,969 registered for a swim lesson. These are both staples of summer and Des Moines Parks and Recreation wants to continue to provide these amenities to residents. Apply for the seasonal positions at [dmparks.org](http://dmparks.org).

---

### Scholarships Now Available

A new partnership, the Youth Recreational Scholarship Program, between Des Moines Public Schools and Des Moines Parks and Recreation seeks to expand youth services in the community and have all students involved in an extracurricular activity by the time they complete fifth grade.

Starting January 1, students enrolled in Des Moines Public Schools, who qualify for the free and reduced meal program can opt-in to register for Parks and Recreation youth sports and swim lessons for just $5.

**Programs include:**

- Coach Pitch Baseball for Grades 1-2  
- Tee Ball for K-1  
- Swim Lessons for K-12 (Group Lessons Only)  
- Youth Basketball for Pre-K-7  
- Youth Flag Football for Pre-K-7  
- Youth Soccer for Pre-K-7  
- Youth Volleyball for Grades 1-7

The scholarship will be available to an estimated 25,000 school district students. Eligible participants will have the ability to opt-in through the Des Moines Public Schools website at [dmschools.org](http://dmschools.org) anytime throughout the year.

“This initiative will remove the barrier of participation” said Benjamin Page, director of the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department. “Learning to swim is such an important life skill for everyone to have and there are so many benefits for those who engage in youth sports. We are grateful for the support from our Mayor and City Council, who believed so strongly in the effort that they voted to make all sports in this program only $5, rather than 50% off the price.”

For more information about the Youth Recreational Scholarship Program, visit [dmparks.org](http://dmparks.org).
The City of Des Moines Forestry Division offers FREE trees to all Des Moines residents each year through the Tiny Trees Program. Since 2016, more than 20,000 trees have been distributed.

This free program provides up to five Tiny Trees for planting on private property. This year, residents will have a variety of available species to choose from.

Planting trees throughout the City has numerous benefits. Trees reduce stormwater runoff, impact our physical and psychological well-being, promote neighborhood safety and create a tangible increase in property value.

Each tree is approximately 16 – 24 inches tall and includes planting and care instructions. Ordering began on Monday, February 10 with a pickup date to be scheduled in May.

For more information on the Tiny Trees Program, visit DSM.city/tinymes.
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Des Moines $328,277 annually in Mainstream Housing Vouchers for Polk County residents.

The funding will provide 60 additional affordable rental units to non-elderly persons with disabilities who were previously homeless and are currently living in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing programs.

Chris Johansen, director of the Des Moines Community Development Department said, "HUD's Mainstream Voucher Program will be a substantial and much-needed boost for the metro's homeless community." He went onto say, "This marks the first time HUD has awarded Des Moines this important program and its impact will be felt throughout Polk County."

The infusion of 60 housing vouchers every year will go a long way in providing affordable housing and alleviating a burden for dozens of our homeless residents.

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness first access housing through a centralized or coordinated intake process which is facilitated by Primary Health Care (PHC). PHC assesses and matches households to the appropriate health resources, social services, and housing that best fit their needs. Clients who have entered housing through the process and are ready for more independent living may be eligible for a Mainstream Voucher.

Des Moines will begin issuing Mainstream Vouchers on July 1, 2020 with the application process starting in the spring. For additional information, please contact the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency (DMMHA) at (515) 323-8950 or go to Housing Services at DSM.city. Interested clients may also contact Primary Health Care (pictured above) at (515) 248-1850.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Des Moines $328,277 annually in Mainstream Housing Vouchers for Polk County residents.

The funding will provide 60 additional affordable rental units to non-elderly persons with disabilities who were previously homeless and are currently living in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing programs.

Chris Johansen, director of the Des Moines Community Development Department said, "HUD's Mainstream Voucher Program will be a substantial and much-needed boost for the metro's homeless community." He went onto say, "This marks the first time HUD has awarded Des Moines this important program and its impact will be felt throughout Polk County."

The infusion of 60 housing vouchers every year will go a long way in providing affordable housing and alleviating a burden for dozens of our homeless residents.

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness first access housing through a centralized or coordinated intake process which is facilitated by Primary Health Care (PHC). PHC assesses and matches households to the appropriate health resources, social services, and housing that best fit their needs. Clients who have entered housing through the process and are ready for more independent living may be eligible for a Mainstream Voucher.

Des Moines will begin issuing Mainstream Vouchers on July 1, 2020 with the application process starting in the spring. For additional information, please contact the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency (DMMHA) at (515) 323-8950 or go to Housing Services at DSM.city. Interested clients may also contact Primary Health Care (pictured above) at (515) 248-1850.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Des Moines $328,277 annually in Mainstream Housing Vouchers for Polk County residents.

The funding will provide 60 additional affordable rental units to non-elderly persons with disabilities who were previously homeless and are currently living in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing programs.

Chris Johansen, director of the Des Moines Community Development Department said, "HUD's Mainstream Voucher Program will be a substantial and much-needed boost for the metro's homeless community." He went onto say, "This marks the first time HUD has awarded Des Moines this important program and its impact will be felt throughout Polk County."

The infusion of 60 housing vouchers every year will go a long way in providing affordable housing and alleviating a burden for dozens of our homeless residents.

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness first access housing through a centralized or coordinated intake process which is facilitated by Primary Health Care (PHC). PHC assesses and matches households to the appropriate health resources, social services, and housing that best fit their needs. Clients who have entered housing through the process and are ready for more independent living may be eligible for a Mainstream Voucher.

Des Moines will begin issuing Mainstream Vouchers on July 1, 2020 with the application process starting in the spring. For additional information, please contact the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency (DMMHA) at (515) 323-8950 or go to Housing Services at DSM.city. Interested clients may also contact Primary Health Care (pictured above) at (515) 248-1850.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Des Moines $328,277 annually in Mainstream Housing Vouchers for Polk County residents.

The funding will provide 60 additional affordable rental units to non-elderly persons with disabilities who were previously homeless and are currently living in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing programs.

Chris Johansen, director of the Des Moines Community Development Department said, "HUD's Mainstream Voucher Program will be a substantial and much-needed boost for the metro's homeless community." He went onto say, "This marks the first time HUD has awarded Des Moines this important program and its impact will be felt throughout Polk County."

The infusion of 60 housing vouchers every year will go a long way in providing affordable housing and alleviating a burden for dozens of our homeless residents.

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness first access housing through a centralized or coordinated intake process which is facilitated by Primary Health Care (PHC). PHC assesses and matches households to the appropriate health resources, social services, and housing that best fit their needs. Clients who have entered housing through the process and are ready for more independent living may be eligible for a Mainstream Voucher.

Des Moines will begin issuing Mainstream Vouchers on July 1, 2020 with the application process starting in the spring. For additional information, please contact the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency (DMMHA) at (515) 323-8950 or go to Housing Services at DSM.city. Interested clients may also contact Primary Health Care (pictured above) at (515) 248-1850.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Des Moines $328,277 annually in Mainstream Housing Vouchers for Polk County residents.

The funding will provide 60 additional affordable rental units to non-elderly persons with disabilities who were previously homeless and are currently living in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing programs.

Chris Johansen, director of the Des Moines Community Development Department said, "HUD's Mainstream Voucher Program will be a substantial and much-needed boost for the metro's homeless community." He went onto say, "This marks the first time HUD has awarded Des Moines this important program and its impact will be felt throughout Polk County."

The infusion of 60 housing vouchers every year will go a long way in providing affordable housing and alleviating a burden for dozens of our homeless residents.

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness first access housing through a centralized or coordinated intake process which is facilitated by Primary Health Care (PHC). PHC assesses and matches households to the appropriate health resources, social services, and housing that best fit their needs. Clients who have entered housing through the process and are ready for more independent living may be eligible for a Mainstream Voucher.

Des Moines will begin issuing Mainstream Vouchers on July 1, 2020 with the application process starting in the spring. For additional information, please contact the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency (DMMHA) at (515) 323-8950 or go to Housing Services at DSM.city. Interested clients may also contact Primary Health Care (pictured above) at (515) 248-1850.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Des Moines $328,277 annually in Mainstream Housing Vouchers for Polk County residents.

The funding will provide 60 additional affordable rental units to non-elderly persons with disabilities who were previously homeless and are currently living in permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing programs.

Chris Johansen, director of the Des Moines Community Development Department said, "HUD's Mainstream Voucher Program will be a substantial and much-needed boost for the metro's homeless community." He went onto say, "This marks the first time HUD has awarded Des Moines this important program and its impact will be felt throughout Polk County."

The infusion of 60 housing vouchers every year will go a long way in providing affordable housing and alleviating a burden for dozens of our homeless residents.

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness first access housing through a centralized or coordinated intake process which is facilitated by Primary Health Care (PHC). PHC assesses and matches households to the appropriate health resources, social services, and housing that best fit their needs. Clients who have entered housing through the process and are ready for more independent living may be eligible for a Mainstream Voucher.

Des Moines will begin issuing Mainstream Vouchers on July 1, 2020 with the application process starting in the spring. For additional information, please contact the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency (DMMHA) at (515) 323-8950 or go to Housing Services at DSM.city. Interested clients may also contact Primary Health Care (pictured above) at (515) 248-1850.
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

2020 AVID Series
The Des Moines Public Library’s Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AVID) series returns this year for its 20th season of connecting local audiences with prominent national and international authors.

Tayari Jones
An American Marriage
Saturday, March 28, 3:00 p.m.
Capital Square: DSM Book Festival

Hanif Abdurraqib
Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to a Tribe Called Quest
Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

David Baldacci
Walk the Wire
Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.
Franklin Jr. High

Kate Quinn
The Huntress
Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

Jacqueline Woodson
Red at the Bone
Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 p.m.
Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University

Brad Meltzer
The Lincoln Conspiracy
Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

All AVID programs are free and open to the public. Free parking is available at Central Library events. For further details, plus reading suggestions, go to dmpl.org/avid.

Application for 2020 Dog/Cat License and Dog Park Permit • City of Des Moines

$35 for Non-Spayed/Neutered Animals
$15 for Spayed/Neutered Animals
$5 for Animals of Citizens over 65 (first dog and first cat per household)

Owner’s Name
Address
City _______ State _______ Zip _______
Signature of Owner
(For Dog Park Permit Purposes Only)

Breed ___________ Color(s) ___________
Age ___________ Sex ___________
Name of Pet ___________
Rabies Tag # ___________
Rabies Vaccination Date ___________
Rabies Expiration Date ___________

March 31 is the deadline to purchase a pet license without a $50 late fee. All animals six months and older must be licensed.

For more information, call the City Clerk’s office at (515) 283-4209 ext.3.