Your Local Option Sales Tax: TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

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New at the Library: Adventure Pass
Be a Parks Volunteer and Earn Free Stuff
A Voice for the LGBTQ+ Community
Each year, the Des Moines Mayor and City Council members make appointments to twenty local boards and commissions, who in turn offer a wide variety of services to the city council and citizens 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 or contact the City Clerk’s Office at 515-283-4209.

The Urban Design Review Board, composed of 11 members appointed by the Mayor and City Council, includes four registered architects (one with significant restoration experience), two licensed landscape architects, one citizen that is a developer or realtor/broker, three citizen representatives, and one citizen representative with demonstrated interest in historical renovation and restoration. At their bi-monthly Tuesday morning meetings, the Board makes recommendations to the City Council on the design of significant public projects and private development projects that request tax increment finance (TIF) assistance or are purchasing city-owned property for redevelopment purposes. It also serves in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Commission as the Landmark Review Board, overseeing modifications to designated local historic landmarks throughout the city. The Board is staffed by the Office of Economic Development.

Members:
Scott Allen
Brennae Barnum
Naura Heiman-Godor
Tim Hielkema
Colleen MacRae
Cary Nagle
Dennis Reynolds
Tim Ryppma
Stephanie Weisenbach
Steve Wilke-Shapiro

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has the power under Iowa law and the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Des Moines to hear and decide requests for variances and exceptions from the regulations contained in the City’s Zoning Ordinance. The board also considers Conditional Use Permits and Special Permits. These include granting Conditional Use Permits so a business can sell alcohol, and Special Permits for a farmer’s market or a festival.

Additionally, if a person feels like a staff member misinterpreted an ordinance, the appeal of any decision is heard by the Board. The Board decision is final so any appeals of this Board's decision are heard in District Court.

Regular meetings of the Zoning Board of Adjustment are typically held at 1:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise scheduled by the Board. Most of the members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment must be persons representing the public at large and must not be involved in the business of purchasing or selling real estate.

Members:
Nathan Blake
Lynn Carlson
John Chiodo
Dave Gaer
Marlys Jones
Mel Pins
Cindy Smith
A Penny for Progress

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF — By state law, 50 percent of the new sales tax revenue must go toward property tax relief. After receiving approval from voters, Des Moines City Council reduced the City’s property tax levy rate to the lowest it has been in the past seven years.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS & FLOOD PREVENTION — Visitors and commuters now help fund necessary improvements to Des Moines’ important infrastructure, including street paving/replacement and storm sewer upgrades.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS — The City is committed to using Local Option revenue to invest in neighborhoods throughout Des Moines, including removal of blighted properties and expanded library hours.

PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS & EXPENDITURES — To better serve our quickly growing city, Local Option revenue will be used to fund public safety enhancements, including continued funding for 13 firefighter positions and mobile mental health crisis services for youth.

Street Repairs Funded by Local Option

- 53rd St. from Franklin Ave. to Hickman Rd.
- 59th St. from Franklin Ave. to Francis Ave.
- Lincoln Ave. from 59th St. to 61st St.
- Francis Ave. from 61st St. to 62nd St.
- 49th Pl. from Urbandale Ave. south to dead-end
- Nierob Ct. from Washington Ave. north to dead-end
- 36th St. from Washington Ave. to Franklin Ave.
- E. Tiffin Ave. from E. 15th St. to Villa Vista Dr.
- Henderson Ave. from E. 15th St. to Villa Vista Dr.
- Richmond Ave. from E. 15th St. to Villa Vista Dr.
- Villa Vista Dr. from Richmond Ave. to Henderson Ave.
- Nevada Ave. from E. 15th St. to York St.
- E. 31st Ct. from E. Washington Ave. to Easton Blvd.
- Dubuque Ave. from E. 33rd St. to E. 36th St.
- E. 34th St. from Dubuque Ave. to south of Garfield Ave.
- State St. from E. 32nd St. to E. 33rd St.
- E. 29th St. from E. Grand Ave. to E. Walnut St.
- Lyon St. from E. 29th St. to E. 30th St.
- S.E. 7th St. from Raccoon St. to E. Court Ave.
- E. Hillside Ave. from Indianola Ave. to S.E. 6th St.
- E. Gray St. from S.E. 3rd St. to S.E. 5th St.
- 19th Pl. from Leyner St. to Center St.
- Northwood Dr. from Gilmore Ave. to Terrace Dr.
- S.W. 5th St. from Park Ave. to Hughes Ave.

Taking It to the Streets

It’s shortly after eight o’clock on a Wednesday morning in a northwest Des Moines neighborhood. The repaving crew from the City’s public works department begins laying down asphalt along a one-block stretch of a street.

It’s a small project in the City’s annual street improvement efforts — but an important one just the same — and a repaving project that likely wouldn’t have happened without the new Local Option Sales & Service Tax.

“For too many years those small but vital street improvements needed in neighborhoods throughout our city didn’t get done. The money wasn’t there so projects were delayed time and again,” explained Public Works Director Jonathan Gano. “Fortunately, things started to change this summer thanks to the voters of Des Moines.”

Back in March, 70 percent of voters approved a one-cent sales tax increase to be used for infrastructure upgrades, neighborhood improvements, property tax relief and public safety enhancements. The new tax went into effect on July 1 and will deliver an estimated $37 million annually with 33 percent generated by visitors.

“With these additional funds we will improve more streets and get to those projects quicker,” Gano said. “There’s a lot of work to do but thanks to Local Option, help is on the way, and we’re taking it to the streets.”
Go On a New Adventure with Your Library Card

The Des Moines Public Library recently launched a new entertainment and educational offering to its Des Moines cardholders.

Your Des Moines Public Library card is now your ticket to FREE family fun. Take advantage of the library’s Iowa Adventure Pass to check out great area attractions.

With Adventure Pass, you can bring your family to the Blank Park Zoo, Science Center of Iowa and Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden for free. Brenton Skating Plaza will also become an option when it opens this winter.

When you reserve an Adventure Pass with your Des Moines Public Library card, you book yourself and your family a full day of fun. At the Blank Park Zoo and Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, each pass allows entrance for up to two adults and two children. At the Science Center of Iowa, each pass allows for up to four total free passes (two adults and two children, or one adult and three children).

Each adult cardholder can reserve a pass from each attraction once every 365 days. Additional tickets may be purchased at the gate.

Residency restrictions apply. To find more information and reserve your Adventure Pass, go to dmpl.org/adventurepass.

Library Now Open Longer
The library is now open longer each week thanks to your 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.

This summer, the library launched Kanopy, a streaming video service specializing in classic, award-winning, independent and foreign cinema. Some of the more than 30,000 film options include recent award winners like *Moonlight*, *Hereditary*, and *Ladybird*, and cinematic classics like *Chinatown*, *Seven Samurai*, and *The 400 Blows*.

Des Moines cardholders will have 10 credits per month, and each movie or TV series typically costs one credit. Kanopy also offers Kanopy Kids, a massive collection of educational TV shows, read-along books and fun family movies. The entirety of the Kanopy Kids collection is available for free – costing no monthly credits – and includes hours of entertainment that's both fun and educational for the little ones.

Not only is Kanopy free, but it’s very easy to sign up for and use. Just go to dmplkanopy.com to see what’s available and register for an account. Kanopy works on phones, laptops, smart TVs and more. Kanopy is only available to cardholders who reside in Des Moines or rural Polk County.
**Wreaths Across America Returns to Des Moines**

Des Moines Parks and Recreation is joining the national “Wreaths Across America” campaign. Woodland Cemetery has been chosen as an official location for 2019, amongst our seven municipal cemeteries.

Support is needed to fund over 700 wreaths placed to remember and honor our veterans on “National Wreaths Across America Day” December 14.

No taxpayer dollars are allocated for this program, as it is paid for entirely by private donations.

Sponsorship levels include:

- 1 Wreath Individual Sponsorship ($15)
- 2 Wreaths ($30)
- 5 Wreaths ($75) *Most Popular
- 10 Wreaths ($150)
- Custom Number of Wreaths


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**One of the Best Park Systems in the Nation**

The Trust for Public Land ParkScore® rankings are out and Des Moines Parks and Recreation scored a very impressive 39th! This is an evaluation of how our city ranks against the 100 largest cities in the US in acreage, investment, amenities and access.

By coming in at number 39, Des Moines beat out cities such as Atlanta, Dallas, Miami and Austin.

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**Love the Trails? Earn Free Stuff!**

Each year, the City of Des Moines participates in the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project to assess trail use in our community. As a result of these efforts, we learned that some trail locations in our system may see over one million uses per year and on average all trail locations support almost 350,000 uses per year based on the national extrapolation formula.

We need hundreds of volunteers to assist with counting and surveying trail users September 10, 11 and 14. All supplies and training are provided. This is a great volunteer event to sign-up with a partner/friend and give back to our community together!

Volunteers can earn $10 as Bike Ped Bucks (good for admissions, activities, memberships, facility/equipment rental and more!) as a thank you OR sign-up for multiple shifts and receive a FREE registration for the 2020 Mayor’s Annual Ride and Run.

In 1965, *The Sound of Music* was the most popular movie in Des Moines. *Satisfaction* by the Rolling Stones played on KIOA Radio and *Bonanza* was the biggest show on television.

It was also the year the City of Des Moines wrote its current zoning ordinance. Since then, the ordinance has been revised again and again. In all, more than 300 amendments have been tacked on to the zoning ordinance over the past 54 years. This has created conflicting procedures and inefficient processes which have led to permitting delays and frustration.

That’s why, as part of the long-range, comprehensive initiative PlanDSM, the City has been working on a new zoning, planning and design ordinance that will provide greater predictability, efficiency and a more focused urban design for developers and neighborhoods. The proposed ordinance prioritizes and encourages developments that tie together the existing character of the neighborhood, transportation and employment.

As the largest city in Iowa, Des Moines needs a series of urban solutions to create sustainable neighborhoods. Homeowners should be able to sell their homes for more than they originally paid, while residents of all income levels should be able to afford to rent or buy a place of their own.

When looking towards the future of Des Moines, our community needs to improve the value of each of our neighborhoods by encouraging a mix of new housing options and updating existing housing to meet the demands of today’s market.

In Des Moines, we want to go beyond building affordable housing to creating neighborhoods that will continue to be attractive and affordable for years to come.

If you’d like to provide some thoughts or learn more about the zoning, planning, and design ordinance, we invite you to these upcoming events:

**Zoning Code Public Meetings** *(subject to change)*
- **August 19** – City Council at 4:30 p.m. City Hall
- **September 9** – City Council (First reading) at 4:30 p.m. City Hall
- **September 23** – City Council (Second reading) at 4:30 p.m. City Hall
- **October 14** – City Council (Third reading) at 4:30 p.m. City Hall

**Spring Cleanup to Reduce Urban Blight (SCRUB) Days**

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<td>OCT 19</td>
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For restrictions and guidelines, visit DSM.city/SCRUB.
A Voice for the LGBTQ+ Community

Formed in 2017, the LGBTQ Advisory Council raises awareness, educates, and advocates for the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer residents and visitors of Des Moines to ensure the city's department and services are fair and inclusive, with a focus on housing, employment, city services and public accommodations.

They also advocate for the civil rights of LGBTQ+ persons, and educate the LGBTQ+ communities about the services available through the Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission.

The Advisory Council meets on the third Thursday of every month from 6-8 p.m. and holds listening sessions, dialogues, and other community events throughout the year.

If you would like to become a member, applications are currently available online at DSM.city/LGBTQAC through Monday, August 19, 2019.

To learn more about the advisory council, contact Emily Cohen, Human Rights Specialist and LGBTQAC liaison, at eacohen@dmgov.org

City Council Champions
Fair Housing

Fair housing for Des Moines residents takes an important step forward on September 1 when a measure goes into effect prohibiting landlords from discriminating against people because of their income source. The Des Moines City Council unanimously approved the ordinance in June, making "source of income" a protected class in the City.

That means it will be illegal to discriminate and deny housing to those residents who receive public assistance such as veteran benefits, Social Security, disability payments, child support or alimony.

"This ensures that everyone has the opportunity to move up the socio-economic ladder and that fair housing is a right for all persons in Des Moines," said Joshua V. Barr, director of the City's Civil & Human Rights Department. "It is a significant step for the City but an even bigger one for our residents."

For more information or questions please contact the Civil & Human Rights Department: 515-283-4284 or humanrights@dmgov.org.

"It is a significant step for the City but an even bigger one for our residents."

Joshua V. Barr

It is a significant step for the City but an even bigger one for our residents.
As a homeowner or renter, you have a lot of information to keep track of. To help simplify your life, the City of Des Moines has created an online tool for finding the most important information relevant to where you live.

Visit [ShowMeMyHouse.DSM.city](http://ShowMeMyHouse.DSM.city) for quick access to information about:

- Garbage, Yard Waste and Recycling Collection
- Zoning Districts
- Permit Inspectors
- Elected Representatives
- Neighborhood Associations
- Neighborhood Police Officers
- Census Information

### Avoid a Parking Ticket 101

Did you know it’s a violation of Des Moines Municipal Code to park a vehicle on a city street or on city property without the license plate displaying the current registration sticker? Registrations may be renewed during the month before and the month after the registration month (normally the birth month of the registered owner). To avoid a parking ticket, apply early, and immediately put the sticker on your plate when you receive it. Remember, the sticker shows the month and year it expires.

### Dates to Know

#### AUGUST

- 17 – SCRUB Day
- 18 – Pools and Aquatics Centers close for season (excluding Northwest Family Aquatic Center)
- 23 – Des Moines Public School: First day of school (Downtown School started Aug. 7)
- 24 – Crossroads: A Journey with the Blues featuring local jazz legend Scott Davis. 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Forest Avenue Library

#### SEPTEMBER

- 02 – Labor Day: City offices closed and one-day delay for remainder of week for garbage/recycling collection
- 08 – Splash Pools close for season
- 10 – DART: How to Ride training. 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at North Side Library
- 21 – Mega SCRUB Day
- 28 – Fall Family Fun Fest

#### OCTOBER

- 08 – FAFSA Ready Iowa. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Forest Avenue Library
- 19 – SCRUB Day
- 29 – Fright Night at the Library featuring Final Act Ensemble vintage radio group. 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Franklin Avenue Library

#### NOVEMBER

- 05 – City Council election day
- 11 – Veterans Day: City offices closed, no garbage/recycling collection delays

Visit [dsm.city/calendar](http://dsm.city/calendar) for further information.