P.3 Explaining the Local Option Sales & Service Tax Vote

P.5 City Finance 101

P.8 2019 AViD Series Lineup
City Hall  
400 Robert D. Ray Drive • Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
515-283-4500 • info@dmgov.org

Council Meeting Dates
Mondays • 4:30 p.m.
February 11  |  March 11  |  April 8
February 25  |  March 25  |  April 22

Boards and Commissions Corner
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. In each edition of City Source, we highlight two of these boards and recognize your neighbors who volunteer their time and talents. For more information, or if you’re interested in becoming part of the public process or applying for an open position, please visit dmgov.org or contact the City Clerk’s Office at 515-283-4209.

The Transportation Safety Committee is composed of 10 voting committee members. Six are appointed by City Council members and two are appointed by the Mayor. One member is appointed by the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority and one is appointed by the Des Moines Independent Community School District. The committee advises the City Council on safe and efficient use of all transportation modes within the city. At monthly meetings, the committee discusses the city's transportation network, including council-approved transportation plans. It also hears citizen comments and requests regarding transportation matters on existing, new or potential facilities. It meets the second Tuesday of each month.

Members:
Scott Bents  
Dave Ferree  
Blake Hanson  
Luis Montoya  
Anne Pham  
Carl Voss  
Jim Windsor  
Robin Witt  
Chad Zimmerman

The Skywalk Committee is a subcommittee of the City’s Urban Design Review Board. It is composed of five members. Two members are nominated by the Urban Design Review Board. Three additional members, nominated by the Des Moines Skywalk Association, are ownership representatives of a property containing a skywalk, an officer of a business of such a property or a tenant representative or officer in a business that leases property on a skywalk and an association representative who serves on the Skywalk Association’s governing board. At monthly meetings, the committee discusses, makes decisions and grants variances to the Skywalk Codes. It meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

Members:
Brenna Barnum  
Alexandra Briggs  
Nancy Hiemstra  
Karen Sol  
Stephanie Weisenbach
Recently, Des Moines’ residents asked the Des Moines City Council to request a public vote on a 1% local option sales and service tax (LOSST). The City Council responded and now residents of Des Moines will have an opportunity to vote on Tuesday, March 5.

If approved, the City of Des Moines would receive approximately $37 million annually to support property tax relief and a variety of improvement projects. Those projects include:

1. Repair and replace streets throughout Des Moines
2. Improvements to storm water infrastructure to reduce the impact of future flooding
3. Enhance public safety, including facilities, equipment, and personnel
4. Increase the City’s ability to remove and redevelop blighted properties through a Blitz on Blight program

Early In-Office Voting at Polk County Auditor’s Office
(111 Court Ave) • Monday, Feb. 4 – Monday, Mar. 4

Visit polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor for more voting information.

FAQ

How will the vote impact my property taxes?
If approved, the tax would provide property tax relief as stated in the ballot language below.

Who will pay this new sales tax?
Anyone making a purchase at a retail business in Des Moines would pay the new sales tax. The tax would apply to most retail purchases but not things such as groceries, gas, and prescription drugs.

For a full list of services and products that are taxed, visit the Iowa Department of Revenue’s website at tax.iowa.gov.

What’s on the ballot?
This is the language as it will appear on the ballot:

Summary: To authorize imposition of a local sales and services tax in the City of Des Moines at the rate of one percent (1%) to be effective July 1, 2019.

Revenues from the sales and services tax shall be allocated as follows:

- For the City of Des Moines:
  Fifty percent (50%) for property tax relief.

- The specific purpose for which the revenues shall otherwise be expended are:
  1. Fifty percent (50%) of such revenues for lawful purposes of the City including, but not limited to, repairing streets, flood prevention, public safety, and improving neighborhoods throughout the City of Des Moines. All expenditures will be subject to regular audit, public comment, and review.

Do other communities in Iowa have a Local Option Sales Tax?
Yes, they do. According to the Iowa Department of Revenue, 948 out of 971 communities in Iowa (97%) have a Local Option Sales Tax. Dallas County passed the Local Option in November of 2017 and is now collecting the additional 1%.

This means Polk County residents are already paying Local Option Sales Tax in many communities they may visit across the state - such as when they shop at Jordan Creek Town Center.

Learn more at localoption.dmgov.org.
Federal Opportunity Zones Designed in Drake Neighborhood

Areas around Drake University may see a flurry of construction activity in upcoming years, thanks to a recently-adopted federal tax incentive called Opportunity Zones. This new community development program will promote economic stability, job growth, and improved housing conditions in disadvantaged areas that have traditionally been overlooked by the private sector.

Nationwide, more than 8,700 Opportunity Zones have been designated. Following a competitive application process, 62 zones were designated across Iowa. Nine eligible census tracts in Des Moines were submitted to the state for consideration. Two tracts in the Drake neighborhood were selected. Census Tract 11 is roughly bound by Hickman Road to the north, University Avenue to the south, 30th Street to the west, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway to the east. Census tract 26 extends from University Avenue south to I-235, from 28th Street to Keosauqua Way.

Neighborhood residents, non-profit organizations, Drake University representatives and city leaders have organized a steering committee to promote the Opportunity Zones and serve as an advisory body for potential investors. The goal is to support an inclusive neighborhood that offers quality housing choices, job opportunities, and desired retail services to a wide range of residents. Federal regulations are still being finalized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, who will administer the program. The Drake Opportunity Zones will remain in place for 10 years.

2019 DES MOINES CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

Join Us: Wednesday, March 20th

This year’s symposium will feature four interactive workshop tracks designed to inspire attendees, generate ideas and engage the community to act on issues related to: economic, judicial, social, and political progress. Additionally, the symposium will feature a track for students called “Future Progress,” presented by Des Moines Public School’s CORE (Community of Racial Equity) for Advancement.

The luncheon keynote will be delivered by Richard Edmond-Vargas, also known as Richie Reseda, who has been featured on CNN’s The Feminist on Cellblock Y and is the co-founder of Initiate Justice and Question Culture. Reseda’s talk will focus on how community members, especially those directly impacted by incarceration, can become involved in grassroots legislative efforts aimed at ending punitive justice systems and investing in people, communities and restorative means of reducing harm.

The symposium will be held at Des Moines University, located at 3200 Grand Avenue. Purchase tickets at movepassiontoprogress.eventbrite.com.

For more information, including agenda and sponsorship opportunities, visit humanrights.dmgov.org/symposium.

HOME FIRE SAFETY TIPS

The Des Moines Fire Department wants to remind you of some fire hazards in the home during these colder/winter months. Two common causes of fires during this time of year are improper use of space heaters and candles.

1. Purchase a heater that has been tested in a lab for safety and avoid old heaters that do not have current safety features, such as overheat & tip-over protection.
2. Plug heater directly into the wall outlet, with a 3 foot clearance from combustibles.
3. Never leave unattended or with small children nearby.
4. Turn off or unplug before leaving the room or going to sleep.

Please do a thorough walkthrough of your residence to ensure your safety during these winter months.

Candles can be another source of accidents and fires that you should focus on preventing. Candle fires are typically caused by flames catching nearby combustible materials on fire. Follow these tips to reduce the chance of an accidental candle fire.

1. Place candles in holders that won’t tip over, and be sure they are placed on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
2. Don’t burn a candle all the way down to the base. It may damage the glass or ceramic holder and spill.
3. Never use a candle if medical oxygen (O2) is in use.
4. Keep candles attended, and don’t allow children to play with candles, matches or lighters.
5. Consider using scented flameless candles.
Please do a thorough walkthrough of your residence to ensure your safety during these winter months.

4. Turn off or unplug before leaving the room or going to sleep.

3. Never leave unattended or with small children nearby.

2. Space heaters are an efficient method to warm specific areas or rooms while they are occupied which may help reduce the overall cost of heating your home or apartment. Follow the recommendations below to reduce the chance of a fire, contact burn or shock.

1. Purchase a heater that has been tested in a lab for safety and overheat & tip-over protection. Avoid old heaters that do not have current safety features, such as candles, matches or lighters. Consider using scented flameless candles.

What purpose does this fund structure serve the City?
By definition, a fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or purposes. The City, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

- General Fund is the City’s primary operating fund.
- Capital Projects accounts for the acquisition and/or construction of major assets and infrastructure.
- Enterprise funds are primarily self-supporting in that they are financed by program and/or user fees for the services provided.
- Special Revenue accounts for proceeds from specific sources to be expended for specific purposes.
- Internal Service are self-supporting, financed on a cost-reimbursement basis through charges to the departments and divisions which utilize their services.
- Debt Service accounts for principal and interest payments on the City’s general long-term debt.

Who can I contact regarding the budget?
Find more information about the City’s budget, visit our website budget.dmgov.org, or call the City’s Finance Department at (515) 283-4921.

Find contact info for your elected representatives at dmgov.org/government.
Plant This Idea in Your Own Back Yard

Now in its third year, this program offers up to five free trees per resident that can be planted anywhere on your property. All species are native to Iowa and have been selected to add diversity to the city’s urban tree canopy. The trees average two to three feet in height, so they are easy to plant and maintain.

**Watch the trees grow with your kids.** Trees are a fun project for families. Choose from large shade trees, evergreens, or flowering trees that fit in smaller spaces.

**A good investment for everyone.** Tiny Trees offer a cost-effective way for the city to increase its urban tree canopy and a chance for residents to get involved while beautifying your property.

**A great neighborhood project, too!** So far, more than 2,000 residents have participated in the program and 12,000 tiny trees have been given away!

Sign up for your free trees from the City of Des Moines’ Tiny Tree program at tinytrees.dmgov.org.

Report Problems Where You Find Them

Pair the power of your smartphone with myDSMmobile, a free app you can use to alert city authorities of problems. The app has already proven popular with residents for reporting potholes, but it can also be used for 27 of the most common situations found on streets and in neighborhoods.

Use it to report street light outages or graffiti, or request street sweeping or roadside trash pickup. Install the app and there’s no need to look up a phone number or hope you land at the right office for your complaint. MyDSMmobile connects you directly to the team that can handle your problem.

A handy mapping feature helps to indicate the problem location. Simply drop a pin on the map and find the right address. Snap a picture or attach a video to better describe what you see. You can create a user ID to sign in if you’d like feedback on the problem. Reporting anonymously is also possible for sensitive subjects like graffiti or an inoperable vehicle.

The app has been used by more than 3,300 residents to report over 10,000 problems so far.

Download it from your app store or visit myDSMmobile.dmgov.org.

Department of Public Works 2019 SCRUB Days

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location 1</th>
<th>Location 2</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAR 15</td>
<td>MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave.</td>
<td>MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.</td>
<td>7 AM - 2 PM</td>
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<td>APR 20</td>
<td>MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave.</td>
<td>MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.</td>
<td>7 AM - 2 PM</td>
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<td>Hoover High School, 4800 Aurora Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]</td>
<td>7 AM - 2 PM</td>
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<td>7 AM - 1 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 18</td>
<td>MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave.</td>
<td>MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.</td>
<td>7 AM - 2 PM</td>
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<td>Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]</td>
<td>7 AM - 2 PM</td>
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For complete details, visit dmgov.org or call 515-283-4950.
Sign Up for the Mayor’s Annual Ride and Run!

Register for the 2019 Mayor’s Annual Ride and Run on Saturday, April 20 and your contribution will help fund construction of the Des Moines River Trail – Phase 2.

New this year, the event will kick-off at Principal Park (1 Line Drive) with a breakfast from 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. The 5K run and 1-mile family fun walk starts at 9 a.m., featuring a route inside the stadium and shown live on the videoboard. Mayor Frank Cownie will lead the 22-mile ride which leaves the park at 10 a.m.

Registration fees are $35 per adult before April 19 and $50 on-site the day of the event. Youth ages five–18 are $5. Children four and younger are free.

Registration includes water bottle, refreshments at the rest stop and a repair van. For an additional $5, participants can enter both events.

Help Build More Trails
Sign up online at dmparks.org and help sustain one of Des Moines’ most popular and treasured amenities, the trail system.

Family-Friendly Fandom Fest Returns

Back for a second year, it’s MyDMPL Con at the Des Moines Public Library. MyDMPL Con is a family-friendly festival for all fandoms. Whether you like Harry Potter® or the Avengers®, Disney® princesses or Minecraft®, there is sure to be something for you. Last year, more than 1,000 people came to the library to take part in the fun, creating Harry Potter wands, meeting luchadores, drawing manga, watching a Star Wars® puppet show, and much more.

This year, MyDMPL Con will be bigger and better, offering similar activities to last year. Check out the popular green screen, where you can insert yourself into famous scenes in history. Meet superheroes, try your hand at crafts and play!

Visit dmpL.org/mydmplcon for the latest information. Follow the library via its social media accounts: Des Moines Public Library on Facebook, @dmpl on Twitter, and @desmoineslibrary on Instagram

Are You Ready for the Challenge?

Do you like reading books? Do you like winning cash? If so, the 2019 DMPL Reading Challenge is for you. The challenge is to read 12 books in 12 categories chosen by our librarians over the course of the year. Quarterly prizes will be awarded, and everyone completing the challenge will be eligible for the grand cash prize at the end of the year. Participants can sign up any time in 2019.

Register and learn more at dmpL.org/readingchallenge.
Application for 2019 Dog/Cat License and Dog Park Permit • City of Des Moines

$20 2019 Dog Park Permit
Applications at dmparks.org

$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)

April 1 is the deadline to purchase a pet license without a $50 late fee! All animals 6 months and older must be licensed.

Owner's Name________________________________________
Address______________________________________________
City ___________________ State _____________________
Zip _______________ Phone __________________________
Signature of Owner ____________________________________

Breed________________ Color(s)________________________
Age _______________ Sex ______________________________
Name of Pet________________________
Rabies Tag #________________________
Rabies Vaccination Date________________
Rabies Expiration Date______________

Mail this application, rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter and fee to:
City Clerk’s Office • P.O. Box 10326 • Des Moines, IA 50306-0326

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

2019 AViD Series Features Award-Winning Authors
The Des Moines Public Library's Authors Visiting in Des Moines series returns for its 19th season of connecting local audiences with prominent national and international authors.

Susan Orlean
The Library Book
Saturday, March 30, 4:00 p.m.
Capital Square

Laurie Frankel
This Is How It Always Is
Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

Chigozie Obioma
An Orchestra of Minorities
Monday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

Sarah Smarsh
Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth
Thursday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

Madeline Miller
Circe
Thursday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

C.J. Chivers
The Fighters
Thursday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library

Chigozie Obioma
An Orchestra of Minorities

Laurie Frankel
This Is How It Always Is

Sarah Smarsh
Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth

Madeline Miller
Circe

C.J. Chivers
The Fighters

Dates to Know

FEBRUARY
18 Becoming American, A Documentary Film and Discussion Series
Franklin Avenue Library
6:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
27 AARP Tax Preparation Assistance
East Side Library, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MARCH
1 Youth Soccer and Youth Volleyball Registration Ends
15 SCRUB Day
20 "Move Passion to Progress" 33rd Annual Civil & Human Rights Symposium
3200 Grand Avenue, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
30 AViD Author Series: Susan Orlean
400 Locust St, 4:00 p.m.

APRIL
1 Pet License Deadline
1 Swim Lesson Registration Opens
18 AViD Author Series: Laurie Frankel, Central Library, 7:00 p.m.
20 Mayor’s Annual Ride and Run
20 SCRUB Day
27 Tiny Tree Pick-up Day

MAY
5 MyDMPL Con
Central Library, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
18 SCRUB Day

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.