

# CITY MANAGER REPORT

THE WATERLAND CITY

December 13, 2024

## Council Adopts 2025-2026 Budget

At last night's City Council meeting, the City Council unanimously approved the 2025-2026 biennial budget. If you're an avid reader of these City Manager reports, then you'll recall last week's lengthy write up about the budget. This year's budget development took place during a unique transitional period for the City. City Attorney Tim George served as the Interim City Manager for one year, beginning in November 2023. I joined the City as the new City Manager in early November 2024 and collaborated closely with senior staff to understand the existing draft budget. Record-high inflation, ongoing economic uncertainty, declining revenues, the failure of Proposition 1, and the conclusion of one-time federal funding from the CARES and ARPA Acts resulted in a budget gap exceeding \$4 million that needed to be addressed. Through a combination of targeted spending reductions, consolidation of programs and services, generating new revenue streams, and reducing expenses associated with the workforce, this budget provides a basic level of service for core functions such as Public Safety, infrastructure maintenance, and other core local government functions. While the reductions in services and programs will undoubtedly affect community members, we will do everything possible to minimize these impacts.

For the first time in several years, the City's budget is structurally balanced, and we are growing our Fund Balance. In other words, we are not overspending and actually sending money to our savings account!

Although I am very pleased with the final budget and incredibly appreciative of the City Council's support of this plan, we must grow revenues in order to expand services in the future and remain financially stable.

To learn more and view the adopted budget, please visit:  
<https://www.desmoineswa.gov/departments/finance/budgets>





## Sustainable Airport Master Plan

For those who frequently read the City Manager Report, you are already aware of the comment period regarding the Sustainable Airport Master Plan. I want to extend a tremendous thank you to all of you who sent letters, emails, and hosted meetings to help spread the word. I've also received a mix of feedback—both positive and negative—about the process, the strategy, and the team that the 4-City coalition (Burien, Normandy Park, SeaTac, and Des Moines) used. The City Council will discuss our strategy for representing Des Moines' interests during a study session in February. Please stay tuned for more updates on that.

[DES MOINES SAMP](#)



## Camp KHAOS Winter Break

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Looking for something fun for your kids to do over winter break?!

December 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, Jan 1, 2 (no minimum # of days)

8am-6pm, Des Moines Field House: 1000 S 220th St

School Age Kids, 5-12

\$45 Resident/\$50 Non-Resident Daily Fee

Register early to reserve your spot!

[REGISTER HERE](#)





## Marina Tenant Holiday Party

One of the things we treasure most about Des Moines is our Marina, and I was honored to join our tenants for their annual holiday party. Thank you all for your continued support!

[DES MOINES MARINA](#)



## Christmas Pajama Party at the Quarterdeck

There will be popcorn, board games and card games for all ages to enjoy. Admission is free. Please consider donating a new or gently used coat to the Community Coat Drive. Don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas pajamas! Click below for more information. December 20th @ 6:00pm

[PAJAMA PARTY](#)

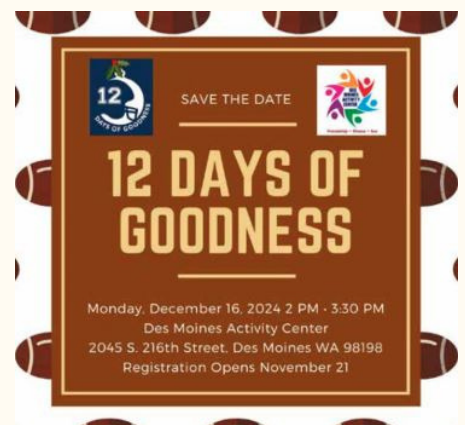
## MARINA GATES

Marina gates are currently in the upright position due to an issue with our cell phone provider blocking any incoming calls from the gates. This prevents people from connecting properly if an issue were to arise when leaving the Marina. Staff are working diligently to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

## 12 DAYS OF GOODNESS

12 Days of Goodness at the Des Moines Activity Center on December 16th! The Des Moines Activity Center invites you to The 12 Days of Goodness, to bring joy and touch the hearts of seniors! Together with some of pro football's most legendary players, representatives from Answers for Elders and sponsored by Cadence Living, NFL Legends will be visiting the Des Moines Activity Center. Meet and chat with football Legends, see football memorabilia and wear your Seahawk attire or holiday colors! This event is \$5 per person, open to adults 50 plus. Seating is limited, advance ticket sales only. Light bites and beverages included.

[12 DAYS OF GOODNESS](#)



# City Staff Kudos!

THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS, TO OUR WONDERFUL AND HARDWORKING STAFF. THIS STAFF KUDOS SECTION WILL SERVE AS A WAY TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF OUR CITY OF DES MOINES EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND MORE.

*"I wanted to give a shout-out and kudos to **Field House staff** who assist with my dog training classes- they are all such a huge help and do such a great job, I really appreciate it. And on top of that, they are all such nice folks, they always have a smile for me (and my doggos!) so I enjoy stopping by just to visit too! They are much appreciated!"*

~ Jan M.



*"Dear **Judge Leone**, Thank you for your service to the people in a kind and courteous manner. You listen well and judge fairly. Know that you are appreciated."*



Des Moines Municipal Court staff adopted 13 children from Des Moines Elementary School and provided them with toys and coats for the holiday season.

## Submit your Staff Kudos

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE KUDOS TO STAFF?

If you want to share a staff kudos with me, email me at  
[KCaffrey@DesMoinesWA.Gov](mailto:KCaffrey@DesMoinesWA.Gov)

EMAIL YOUR [KUDOS!](#)

# HOLIDAY MINGO!

Holiday Mingo at Marina Mercantile December 17th. Bring your holiday cheer to Marina Mercantile for a cozy winter night of Mingo! This lively event features festive holiday tunes and a mix of timeless hits from all genres. Click the link below for more information.

[HOLIDAY MINGO](#)



# Katherine's Fun Stuff

## OATMEAL CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

These are NOT your typical oatmeal cookies...they are soft, chewy and delicious. I also definitely recommend you use the best butter and chocolate chips you can—makes a world of difference. Because my husband is Irish, we're a devoted Kerrygold family and I love Ghiradelli chocolate chips best.



- 1 stick unsalted butter at room temp
- 1 cup turbinado sugar (Yes! Use this specifically—if you must substitute, do brown sugar)
- 1 large egg at room temp
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ¼ c old fashioned oats (don't use quick or instant!)
- 2/3 c all purpose flour
- 1 c bittersweet chocolate chips (I highly recommend 60% bittersweet Ghiradelli)
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ t baking soda
- ½ t kosher salt
- ½ t cinnamon
- ¼ t allspice

·Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees and adjust the oven rack (or racks if you have 2 ovens) to the middle position.

Line 2 large rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper.

Get out your standing mixer and insert your paddle attachment!

Add to the mixing bowl, the stick of butter and the 1 cup sugar. Cream the butter and sugar together on medium-high speed for 30 seconds, then increase the speed to high for up to 2 to 2-1/2 minutes, or until light and fluffy.

Add in the egg and the 2 teaspoons vanilla. Mix the ingredients on medium speed until well combined.

Add in the 1 - ¼ cup old-fashioned oats, ⅔ cup all-purpose flour, 1 cup bittersweet chocolate chips, 1 teaspoon baking powder, ½ teaspoon baking soda, ½ teaspoon fine kosher salt, ½ teaspoon cinnamon and the ¼ teaspoon allspice.

Refrigerate the batter for 15 minutes or so. This step helps to firm up the cookie batter a bit, as well as gives you time to clean up the kitchen!

Divide the dough into 8 portions per cookie sheet, and space them out approximately 2 inches apart.

Bake the cookies 1 tray at a time (or both trays if you have a double oven) until the cookies are golden brown along the edges, but still puffy and a bit soft in the center, 11 to 12 minutes. They will firm up once they are out of the oven.

Enjoy! Eat as many as you can until your stomach hurts, then declare defeat—and share the rest with your family.

## Upcoming Events

December 14th - Des Moines Creek Park Run - Des Moines Beach Park  
December 16th - 12 Days of Goodness, Des Moines Activity Center, 2045 S 216th St  
December 17th - South Sound Chamber of Commerce Legislative Coalition Breakfast  
2025, Dave & Busters @ the Auburn Outlet Collection  
December 17th - Holiday Mingo at the Marina Mercantile, 22341 Marine View Drive S  
December 19th - Holiday Story Time with the Des Moines Police Department at the  
Des Moines Activity Center, 2045 S 216th St  
December 20th - Christmas Pajama Party at the Quarterdeck, Des Moines Marina  
December 31st - Burning Boat Festival, Des Moines Marina  
December 31st - Polar Bear Plunge, Normandy Park

CITY CALENDAR