

CITY MANAGER REPORT

THE WATERLAND CITY

January 3, 2025

Happy New Year!



I hope you had a restful and joyful holiday season! I took a few days off from work and was reminded of how much time parents spend searching for gifts, purchasing them, wrapping them, and assembling them—only for their 7-year-olds to lose interest after just 10 minutes. (sigh) Ah, the joys of the holiday season!

Des Moines Veterans Memorial Flags

We have received concerns from residents about the condition of the flags at Veterans Memorial Park (at Marine View Drive and Des Moines Memorial Drive) as well as the flags at Steven J Underwood Park. In light of recent wind storm events, new flags have been ordered and will be installed in the next week or so, weather permitting. We are ensuring our staff are trained in proper flag protocol and procedures. In accordance with Title 4, United States Code (USC), Chapter 1, Section 8, the current flag will be disposed of in a respectful and proper manner.

Additionally, in honor of former President Jimmy Carter's recent passing, all flags on City property will be flown at half-staff as a mark of respect.



Middle Housing Public Meeting



The City of Des Moines is holding a public meeting regarding “Middle Housing”. This meeting will discuss the City requirements regarding Middle Housing and the associated legislation. So what is “middle housing”? It’s the housing types between single-family homes and large apartment complexes, and is sometimes referred to as the “missing middle” of housing--- in other words, housing that may be more affordable or attainable for people. The State requires middle housing to be compatible in scale, form, and character with single-family homes.

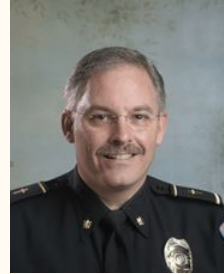
Staff will present the Middle Housing options for Des Moines, including both mandatory and optional elements of the legislation. Staff is looking for public input and consideration as we prepare the draft codes.

We are hosting an Open House (come and go anytime between 5:30-7)

Jan 15, 2025 - 5:30-7pm at the Des Moines Activity Center, 2045 S 216th Street

[MIDDLE HOUSING](#)

Retirement of Chaplain Klerekoper and Introduction of Chaplain Joe Cotton



Chaplain Tim Klerekoper will retire from the Des Moines Police Department on December 31, 2024, after 28 years of dedicated service. We wish him well in his next adventure and thank him for his commitment to officer and community wellness.

We are pleased to welcome Joe Cotton, the new addition to our Chaplain team. Joe is currently the Director of Pastoral Care and Outreach for the Archdiocese of Seattle and brings extensive experience with police departments and community outreach.

Police chaplains offer support in key areas such as officer wellness, spiritual guidance, and community engagement. They provide counseling and referrals to mental health services while maintaining confidentiality. Though chaplains take an oath, their role is specific to their duties and does not include law enforcement authority. The chaplain is a voluntary role and public dollars are not used for this position.

Field House Slide Update

The slide at the Fieldhouse meets all safety standards; however, due to its steep drop, we have decided to keep it closed for now. Our team is working with Parks Designers to make improvements that will enhance safety for all ages. We hope to reopen it before summer. Thank you for your patience!

Des Moines Historical Society Museum

The purposes of the Des Moines Historical Society include the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the greater Des Moines area of southern King County, State of Washington. The museum is open from 1-4 pm on the first Saturday of each month and all Saturdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. At other times the Museum is open by appointment. Please E-mail info@dmhs.org or call 206-824-5226 for more information!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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.

“What I appreciate is the (Building) department's helpful and proactive response in this situation! We were not only rescheduled by your department to inspect again today and the speed in which you okayed our surveying company's height confirmation. All the above efficiency has helped us keep on schedule. Derek went to reschedule Ryan to come back and it had already been done a day early!

So thank you for your following through with us and Ben/Jamie and Ryan are super helpful.”



~ Bob DeHaan, recent customer of our Building Department

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

EMAIL YOUR [KUDOS!](#)

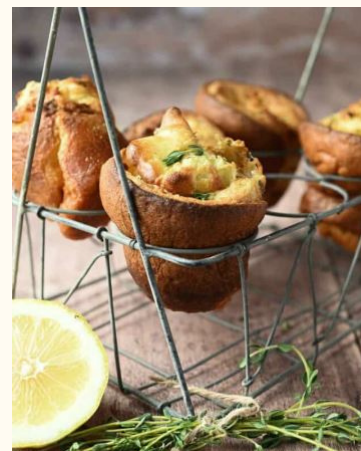
Katherine's Fun Stuff

LEMON THYME POPOVERS

I love a popover...they are light, fluffy and delicious...and take four ingredients. Okay, this one has a few more ingredients...but it is worth it! You can do these in muffin pans, or if you feel fancy, treat yourself to a popover pan.

Ingredients

- Ingredients
- 2 extra-large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon fine kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons (about 1 bunch) fresh thyme leaves, chopped
- finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted - You're going to use this to grease the pan



Instructions

1. **Note: You're going to pre-heat the oven once the popover mix has been combined.**
2. In a mixing bowl with a wire whisk, blend together the 2 eggs, 1 cup milk and one tablespoon melted butter until completely combined.
3. Add the 1 cup flour and ¼ teaspoon kosher salt, and blend until frothy and bubbly. You really want to give the batter a good whisk here.
4. Add to the batter the chopped thyme and lemon zest, and whisk to combine.
5. **Now it's time to pre-heat the oven to 450 degrees.**
6. Let the popover mixture rest while the oven is heating up. Note: Letting the mixture rest, gives the flour time to absorb the liquid and gives the popovers a better texture. I don't know the magic behind it, but I've always done this...and they always turn out perfect.
7. Put the empty popover pan in the pre-heated oven for 5 minutes to warm up. I usually put my pan in when the oven temp reaches 400 degrees and then take it out when it reaches 450 degrees.
8. While the pan is heating up, melt the other 2 tablespoons of butter. Take the popover pan out of the oven and divide the 2 tablespoons of melted butter between the cups. Just pour the butter into the tins and let it rest at the bottom. The butter will sizzle and brown, but that's fine.
9. Whisk the batter one more time to froth it up again.
10. Fill popover cups halfway with batter. Make sure that you pour an even amount in all cups.
11. Put the pan in the oven and bake the popovers at **450 degrees for 15-17 minutes** until they begin to brown and rise. DO NOT OPEN THE OVEN DURING THE COOKING TIME OR THEY WILL DEFLATE...which will be sad and give you a pop-under.
12. **Reduce the heat to 350 degrees and bake the popover for another 15 minutes.**
13. Finished popovers will be golden-brown, feel dry to the touch, and sound hollow when tapped.
14. Immediately turn the popovers out onto a drying rack or plate to cool for a few minutes.

Note: Don't leave them in the tins, as the bottoms will get all wet from the butter.

You can also do these with rosemary and sea salt, or make them plain and then roll them around in cinnamon sugar. Yum!

Upcoming Events



JANUARY

- January 4th - Des Moines Historical Society Open 1-4
- January 4th – Des Moines Creek Park Run – Des Moines Beach Park
- January 7th – Karaoke Night at Waterland Arcade
- January 9th – Transportation Committee Meeting – Des Moines City Hall
- January 9th – Environment Committee Meeting – Des Moines City Hall
- January 9th – Council Meeting – Des Moines City Hall
- January 11th - Des Moines Creek Park Run – Des Moines Beach Park
- January 14th – Glassybaby Hot Shop Tour
- January 14th - Karaoke Night at Waterland Arcade
- January 18th - Des Moines Creek Park Run – Des Moines Beach Park
- January 20th – City Offices closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21st - Karaoke Night at Waterland Arcade
- January 23rd – Municipal Facilities Committee Meeting – Des Moines City Hall
- January 23rd – Economic Development Committee Meeting – Des Moines City Hall
- January 23rd – Council Meeting – Des Moines City Hall
- January 25th – Des Moines Creek Park Run – Des Moines Beach Park
- January 25th – Paper Holder Basket Weaving
- January 28th - Karaoke Night at Waterland Arcade
- January 29th – Mohai Tour

[CITY CALENDAR](#)