

CITY MANAGER REPORT

THE WATERLAND CITY

January 31, 2025

Winter Weather

Winter weather is expected this weekend...including snow and icy, wet roads. And although City staff have been teasing this Texan City Manager if I know what snow is (I do!), we want to share what we are doing to prepare so you can stay safe. Public Works crews have pre-staged supplies at Redondo should tides and wind cause issues. Crew will be out early on Saturday to set up traffic control if needed. Additionally, they'll be out early Sunday morning applying sand and salt on major routes. Please do your part by slowing down and driving safely!



Marina Steps/Redondo Pier

In response to overwhelming community input, the discussion regarding the Marina Steps, Redondo Pier, and Bond Projects by the Council is now scheduled for February 6, instead of February 13. The meeting begins at 6 PM at Des Moines City Hall.

February 6 is a study session, and we hope that by discussing the Marina Steps and Pier at this session, there will be more time for public comment and Council deliberation. We will present a comprehensive update on both projects, the financing involved, and explore various next steps.

I have noticed some misinformation on social media concerning Redondo Pier—the project has **not** been canceled. At the City Council meeting on January 23, the Council unanimously approved a contract to continue design and engineering services related to the Pier, which allows the project to keep progressing.

Animal Control

In 2024, our city faced a tough challenge: finding over \$4 million in savings and new revenue to balance the budget. One of the difficult decisions made was to cut our animal control services contract with Burien CARES. This was discussed multiple times at city council meetings as part of the budget process. We've allocated funding for the most critical public safety concerns including animal and bite investigations.

Unfortunately our reduced services can only cover our legal responsibilities. We are no longer able to offer community animal drop off services.

To help the community, we've created a [flyer](#) with information on what to do if you find an animal. You can also find this information on the City and Police Department websites. This new plan will start on March 1, 2025.

As funding allows we will look to bring back additional animal control services.

Thanks for understanding as we navigate these challenges!

Chief of Police, Theodore A. Boe



City Council Meeting Recap

The following Council Meeting was held on January 30, 2025:

City Council Study Session:

- Discussion on Washington State Department of Transportation Surplus Property
- Discussion on FIFA 2026 Event



The City Council also received a presentation in Executive Session regarding an opportunity to apply for a grant through King County Conservation Futures. The City is actively pursuing this grant and hopes to use the funds for a suitable parcel that could be acquired to support Stormwater Permit requirements and to preserve or expand the City's open space

For more information, or to review packet information, [click here](#)

Planning Commission



In addition to the Marina Steps conversation at the February 6 study session, staff will also present information related to a Planning Commission. I have heard from numerous community members the interest in re-establishing this Commission. The Planning Commission provides citizen review and recommendations on planning-related matters. Planning Commissions do not typically exercise legal power to approve or deny developments. City Council has the final say on land use planning and development and establishes the overall “vision” for the community that informs policy. The Planning Commission acts in an advisory role and provides recommendations to the Council. The commission bridges the gap between public and government, as the seats are filled by local members of the community.

The Council will be presented this information, and then decide whether or not they would like to re-establish this group.

New Officers Sworn In

This week Officers Ryan Melby, Tuan Huynh and Tarak Jedidi graduated the CJTC Basic Police Academy, achieving their Washington State Police Officer Commission. This 720 hour training academy is only a portion of their training to become Des Moines Police Officers, setting the foundation for their understanding of law, Constitution and police authority. After achieving their commission from the state this morning, Chief Boe was honored to swear them in as Des Moines Police Officers.

Over the next (4) months, these new officers will be paired with (4) different trainers and be responsible to demonstrate they can perform competently at the solo officer standard.

We are thrilled to welcome these three new officers to the Des Moines community!

These new officers are a welcome addition to our department, which is currently facing multiple vacancies and staffing shortages. We are hopeful that as city revenues improve, we can fill more vacancies in this critical department.



Notice of Temporary Road Closure

S 210th Street, between 9th Avenue S and Des Moines Memorial Drive, will be temporarily closed from Monday, February 3, to Wednesday, February 5, 2025, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to allow crews to install a new storm pipe for the Des Moines Stormwater Improvement Project.



Highline School Board to Appoint New Members

The Highline Public Schools School Board is accepting applications and nominations to fill two vacant seats representing Districts 4 and 5. These positions became available following the resignations of board members Azeb Hagos (District 5) and Melissa Petrini (District 4). The appointed directors will serve until those elected in the November 2025 election are sworn in.

School Board Vacancies - Highline Public Schools

 highlineschools.org

Valentine's Day Fairy Gram

Looking for a magical way to surprise your little ones this Valentine's Day? Send them a Fairy Gram!

For only \$6, our fairies will deliver a personalized, sparkling message filled with love, kindness, and a sprinkle of magic straight to your child's heart.

Perfect for kids ages 4-10! I just ordered one for my kiddo!

To order your Fairy Gram click [here!](#)



SEND A SPECIAL KIDDO A
Valentine's Day Fairy Gram
DELIVERY \$6 | PICKUP \$4
FEBRUARY 14, 2025

- ♥ Visit www.desmoineswa.gov/daysmart under "Special Events" to order your box(es) by February 12th, 2025.
- ♥ Make sure to add the child's name and address for delivery to Des Moines & Normandy Park addresses ONLY.
- ♥ If you select the pickup option, box(es) will be available at the Field House on the 14th from 8am-7pm.
- ♥ Boxes are intended for kids ages 4-10.

Des Moines Field House: 1000 S 220th St, 98198 | www.desmoineswa.gov/daysmart

City Staff Kudos!

Des Moines Police Department is always looking for new and creative ways to engage with our community when not in response to a crisis. One of these programs is a lunchtime engagement opportunity, where officers are spending their lunch breaks in school cafeterias. No agenda, no presentations....just positive time breaking bread together. Last week, we visited Woodmont and these are the pictures staff put on their social media after the event. My favorite part of this is in the comments, where a parent commented, "This is so fun! It was the first thing we heard about today after school."

Principal Kocher expressed his appreciation in the following email:

"Sergeant Cripe,

Thank you joining our Woodmont community and braving the lunchroom! I am grateful to bridge positive partnerships with Des Moines PD and our students and staff. We received wonderful feedback from students, staff and families and are looking forward to your return March 13th!

I hope you and the other officers had a chance to check out our facebook post. We appreciate you and your colleagues working to keep our community safe.

See you soon!"

Woodmont Principal
Shawn Kocher



Finally, I want to thank our amazing Community Services Officer, Tonya Seaberry, who repeatedly finds opportunities to build relationships between police and community. Her creativity knows no boundaries and we are lucky to have her.

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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- February 1 Des Moines Creek Park Run
- February 1 Iris & Peony Ribbon Cutting, 1-4pm
- February 1 Another Time Ent. Birthday Bash @ Waterland Arcade
- February 1 Saltwater Music Series: Music by Melartin @ Des Moines United Methodist Church
- February 1 Hot Hatha Posture Clinic @ Shiva Yoga
- February 1 Des Moines Historical Society Open 1-4
- February 1 VIBE Bingo @ Jamar's Sports Bar & Grill
- February 2 Cups & Pups Afternoon Tea @ Marina Mercantile
- February 4 MINGO Nights @ Marine Mercantile
- February 5 What's Up Des Moines @ Edward Jones
- February 6 Finance Committee Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 6 Public Safety Committee Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 6 City Council Study Session @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 6 A Rose` In Winter @ Marina Mercantile
- February 7-22 Valentine's Tea @ Marina Mercantile
- February 7 Watercolors & Wine @ Marina Mercantile
- February 8 Hot Hatha, Bikram Based, Posture Clinic - Floor Series @ Shiva Yoga
- February 8 Des Moines Creek Park Run
- February 11 Trivia Night @ the Quarterdeck
- February 13 Valentine's Paint Party @ Jamar's Sports Bar
- February 13 Wine for Romance @ Marina Mercantile
- February 13 Transportation Committee Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 13 Environment Committee Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 13 City Council Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 14 Valentine's Dinner @ Zenith Holland
- February 14 Sweetheart Dance @ Des Moines Activity Center
- February 15 Des Moines Creek Park Run
- February 17 President's Day – City Offices Closed
- February 18 MINGO Nights @ Marina Mercantile
- February 18 Bingo Night @ the Quarterdeck
- February 19 Paint Night @ the Tuscany
- February 20 Cornhole @ the All Star Sports Bar
- February 21 Attack the Block @ Waterland Arcade
- February 22 Sound Healing, Gentle Yin, Guided Meditation @ Shiva Yoga
- February 22 Des Moines Creek Park Run
- February 22 Non Profit Symposium, 9-noon @ Des Moines Activity Center
- February 24 Vinyasa to Yin with Live Sound Bath @ Shiva Yoga
- February 25 Trivia Night @ the Quarterdeck
- February 27 Municipal Facilities Committee Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 27 Economic Development Committee Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall
- February 27 City Council Meeting @ Des Moines City Hall

Have an upcoming event you want to share? Email us and we'll get it on our calendar!