



City Manager Weekly Report September 6, 2024

City Manager Selection!

I am very pleased to announce that at their September 5th meeting, the City Council unanimously selected [Katherine Caffrey](#) to be the next City Manager of Des Moines. Out of 29 initial candidates, the applicant pool was narrowed down over several months to the final four who all participated in an extensive interview process last week which involved the Council, City staff and members of the public. Ms. Caffrey impressed in all aspects and received rave remarks throughout the process.

We are currently preparing a final employment agreement which will require City Council approval at a future meeting. After this is completed we will announce her official start date.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this important process. And welcome aboard Katherine!

SR 509 Stage 2 construction

Now through October 25th, WSDOT is hosting an [online open house](#) providing information on the upcoming SR 509 Completion Project construction in Burien, Des Moines, Kent and SeaTac. After the online open house closes, the information in the online open house will remain available to the public on the WSDOT website. Construction will ramp up this fall, so this interactive website will be the go-to resource for people who live, work, and travel through the SR 509 Stage 2 project area.

24th Ave Project Update

After an extended delay while utility conflicts were worked out, the 24th Project construction activities resumed on June 19, 2024. Unfortunately, additional utility conflicts with gas and power services were discovered and reported to Puget Sound Energy on June 21st. This resulted in additional delay while the parties waited for PSE to remove their utilities. As of today, the utility conflicts remain outstanding and have prevented the 24th project from moving forward.

While the City anticipates recovering delay costs from PSE, the 24th Project will go into another period of suspension of work to allow PSE to complete the relocation work. A roadway stabilization plan will be implemented to address public safety concerns and maintain access to the adjacent public facilities. The project will be completed in 2025.

Field House Playground Update

Construction has resumed on the Field House Playground with a new contract completion date of October 11. Stay tuned for a ribbon cutting announcement.



Pop-up Art Exhibition

The Des Moines Legacy Foundation and Inkfish Foundation are sponsoring another pop-up art exhibition at Inkfish Gallery. It's free to the public and will be for one night only on Saturday, September 7th at 5pm. The group show, curated by Fred Andrews, will feature several artists from this area working in various mediums. Inkfish Gallery is in the glass studio of George C. Scott at 22220 7th Avenue South in downtown Des Moines. The artists in the show are: Jake Prendez of The Napantla Cultural Arts Gallery, George C. Scott of Inkfish Studios, Anne Sweet of Equinox Studios, Adrian VanderHoeven of Village Frame and Gallery, Anita Corby, Daniel Wend, Charlene Chen, Megan Smith, Nancy Bogni, Toka Valu, Amanda Gligorea, and Fred Andrews. The event will include a live jazz performance by renowned guitarist Ron Peters.





Club KHAOS Afterschool Program – Open House September 11th

Club KHAOS Afterschool Program with transportation to the Field House from North Hill, Marvista, Midway, Parkside, and Des Moines Elementary Schools is open for registration! We start on the first day of school so sign up today at www.desmoineswa.gov/daysmart. Want to check out our program before signing up? Drop by our Open House on September 11 from 4:30-6pm to join in on the fun!

DES MOINES FIELD HOUSE
Childcare Programs
Open House!

Sept. 11th, 4:30-6pm
1000 S 220th St.

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW FOR SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AFTERSCHOOL CARE AND BREAK CAMPS

AFTER SCHOOL RATES AS LOW AS \$23 PER DAY

More Info:
www.desmoineswa.gov/register



Meetings of Interest

In addition to day-to-day administrative duties, this week I met with Mayor Buxton to discuss the City Manager recruitment process and other topics of interest to her. I met with Mayor Buxton and Deputy Mayor Steinmetz to prepare for the upcoming City Council meeting. I met with the President of the Des Moines Legacy Foundation to talk about funding options and future partnership opportunities. I met with Councilmember Harris to discuss topics of interest to him. I hosted a roundtable meeting with the City's department director's to talk about current issues/activities in the City. I met with the City's Executive Leadership team to discuss options and ideas for budget balancing strategies for 2025 and beyond. Finally I attended the City Council meeting and the Committee meeting on Thursday night.

City Council Summary

The City Council met on Thursday evening for a Study Session. Highlights from the meeting included the selection of the new City Manager (see update above) as well as an update on the 2025-26 biannual budget. The agenda and materials can be found [here](#).

The [Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee](#) also met on Thursday, agenda and materials can be found in the link.

The City Council will hold a regular meeting at 6pm on September 12th. The agenda and materials can be found [here](#).

The [Transportation Committee](#) also meets at 4pm and the [Environment Committee](#) meets at 5pm on the 12th. The agenda and materials can be found in the links.

Sports Update

The 2024 NFL season officially kicked off last night and everything is right in the world once again. Taylor Swift and the Kansas City Chiefs are 1-0 after beating the Ravens by a toe in the final play of the game. We have the Eagles and Packers knocking heads in Brazil tonight and a full slate of games including the Seahawks taking on the Broncos on Sunday. Aaron Rodgers returns on Monday night to face off against the 49ers and then we have two off days until Thursday and we get to do it all over again. The beloved Washington Huskies look to continue their unbeaten streak this Saturday against Eastern Michigan although unbelievably it won't be on TV again if you have Comcast. Another week of this and I will be cutting the cord. The Cougars play Texas Tech on Saturday night, the Sounders take on Columbus Saturday afternoon and the Mariners continue to physically arrive at different ballparks.

Have a great weekend!
Tim George
Interim City Manager