



CITY OF **DES MOINES**

# CITY SOURCE

Your Direct Link To City Hall

Winter 2011 Edition

## THIS ISSUE

- Teen Video Challenge ..... 4
- Winter Games..... 5
- Snow Ordinance Streets..... 6
- DSM in Top 10 ..... 7



Tune in to Mediacom channel 86 and 97-1.

## 2011 Pet License



On Sale at City Hall!  
Complete and Mail  
Application on Page 4.

## New Bridge/MLK Pkwy SW 2nd Street to SE 9th Street Opens



Des Moines has been called the “City of Bridges” and in late December the city opened its newest landmark bridge, adding yet another enhancement to the downtown River Walk. City leaders held a grand opening ceremony for the extension of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway from SW 2nd Street to SE 9th Street and its new bridge which spans more than 700 feet across the Des Moines River. The bridge is made up of two separate crossings traveling east

and west. This design leaves an opening between the two sides of the bridge to accommodate future widening in the center for added capacity. Local media and the public attended the ceremony. Speakers included Mayor Frank Cownie; Ted Ohmart, Chair, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); Chris Coleman, Vice Chair MPO and Councilman At-Large; Martha Willits, President/CEO, Greater Des Moines

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Des Moines: An Award-Winning City



### City Manager Richard A. Clark

Phone: 515-283-4141

Email: [CityManager@dmgov.org](mailto:CityManager@dmgov.org)

Fax: 515-237-1815

TDD: 515-283-4081

We can all be proud of the recognitions and top rankings Des Moines has received over the last year. Iowa’s capital city is a great place to live! I am grateful for the leadership of the City Council, the hard work of our city employees and strong community support; all of these contribute to our city’s success and has helped our community receive several outstanding recognitions.

At the heart of our city’s success are various economic development projects and the public and private partnerships that have helped us create a world-class community. In December, City Council took action to move three new development projects forward. The Employers Mutual Casualty Company (EMC) purchase of the Hub Tower at Seventh and Walnut Streets will add 80 employees to our downtown.

In late December, the 93-room Hyatt Place opened downtown. On the housing front, both the Rumley Building Lofts and the Metro Lofts opened on the south side of downtown with nearly 200 affordable units. Finally, in the 2900 block of Ingersoll, the Adio Building was

*(Continued on page 8)*



**Mayor T. M. Franklin Cownie**  
Email: [FCownie@dmgov.org](mailto:FCownie@dmgov.org)  
Phone: 515-283-4944

### **A Greener Community**

Creating a healthier community for all of us is one of my passions. I am proud to see our city continue to make strides towards greener building, cleaner water, and higher use of recycling of waste materials. I am thrilled that Des Moines is part of a successful application to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's new Sustainable Regional Planning Grant program. We joined our colleagues at Polk County, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, Center on Sustainable Communities, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and several suburban communities in applying for a \$2 million grant to produce a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. The work will span three years and will need thoughtful input from our residents and businesses to plan for the next generation of growth in our region. Watch for

opportunities for citizen input. Until then, further information about the grant and our local application can be found at [www.dmampo.org/sustainability.html](http://www.dmampo.org/sustainability.html).

Additionally, the city received a \$30,000 grant from the Iowa Office of Energy Independence to conduct sustainability training for businesses using the firm Natural Capitalism. The grant will be used to pay 50% of the training costs for the program participants. Businesses will learn about sustainable practices that can reduce their energy consumption and improve their bottom line. Participants include Principal Financial Group, Metro Waste Authority, the Energy Group, HyVee, Des Moines Water Works and Ruan Transportation.

One more bit of good news. This year, I have the honor of representing Des Moines on the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) which addresses urban forestry and related issues. I was appointed in October by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and will serve until December 2012. As the only mayor on the council I look forward to serving the interests of urban areas across the nation.



**Ward 1, Halley Griess**  
Email: [HRGriess@dmgov.org](mailto:HRGriess@dmgov.org)  
Phone: 515-237-1623

### **Sixth Avenue Streetscape**

The City of Des Moines has partnered with the Sixth Avenue Corridor, River Bend Neighborhood, Cheatom Park Neighborhood, and other stakeholders such as Mercy Hospital, DMACC, and Anawim Housing to develop a conceptual plan for streetscape improvements along Sixth Avenue. The study area encompasses the Sixth Avenue Corridor from the Des Moines River on the north to I-235 on the south.

The primary goals of this effort are to increase pedestrian safety and walkability, as well as incorporate aesthetic improvements such as enhanced lighting, landscaping with trees and flower pots. The conceptual planning process continues this winter with completion scheduled for spring 2011.

### **Beaver Avenue Streetscape**

Following a series of public meetings to gather input, the conceptual plan for the Beaver Avenue Streetscape was approved by the City Council. The project was led by a community steering committee, Genus Landscape Architects and Veenstra & Kimm Engineering with guidance from city staff. The goal of this streetscape is to improve pedestrian safety and beautify the corridor while balancing traffic demands and parking in the Beaver Avenue commercial district. Community fundraising efforts were kicked off at the Beavertown Fall Festival. Your comments will continue to be important as these plans become a reality.



**Ward 2, Bob Mahaffey**  
Email: [RLMahaffey@dmgov.org](mailto:RLMahaffey@dmgov.org)  
Phone: 515-237-1624

### **Eastside Improvements**

Easton Boulevard is one of the busiest streets on the east side. I am happy to report on two major projects undertaken by the city to improve its condition, safety and capacity.

### **Easton Boulevard Bridge**

Work by the contractor, Herberger Construction, is well underway on the replacement of the existing Easton Boulevard Bridge over Four Mile Creek, which was built in 1948. The new \$1.3 million structure will be a three-lane roadway—one lane each going east and west plus a third center turn lane. The new roadway will also have a 4-foot wide sidewalk on the south side, a 12-foot wide recreational trail on the north side and will be longer and higher to improve water flows on Four Mile Creek. The contractor was delayed due to flooding in 2010. The new bridge was temporarily open just before the New Year, but will be closed again later this spring while construction is completed.

### **East 33rd Street and Easton Boulevard Intersection**

Easton Boulevard, west of East 33rd Street was widened and new pavement placed from East 33rd Street to East 34th Street in 2010. The project includes a left-turn lane on all four legs of the intersection along with traffic signals, sidewalks, driveways, sub-drains, intakes, and surface restoration. The contractor, Elder Corporation, completed the work last fall .



**At-Large, Skip Moore**  
Email: [Skipmoore@dmgov.org](mailto:Skipmoore@dmgov.org)  
Phone: (515) 237-1621

### City Employees

Before being elected to the Des Moines City Council, I spent over 34 years as a city employee for the Forestry Division. The first 17 years with the Parks Department and the last 17 with the Public Works Department. During this time, I forged many friendships and alliances. Since being elected, I have had the privilege to meet and work with employees from all departments of the city and I am proud to say our employees across the entire organization are dedicated, hardworking men and women.

During last year's winter storms and the flood events, I witnessed our employees rally, many of them working long days and nights, holidays and weekends, always keeping the best interest of the citizens in mind. From the clerks who answer the phones to the planners, inspectors and public safety personnel, they were there to serve your needs and keep this city running smoothly. Day in and day out, whether on the front lines or behind the scenes, our employees work hard. I would ask next time you come into contact with one of our dedicated employees, whether they are sweeping your street, directing traffic or issuing a permit, please tell them thank you!



**At-Large, Chris Coleman**  
Email: [CColeman@dmgov.org](mailto:CColeman@dmgov.org)  
Phone: 515-237-1622

### Merle Hay Road & Urbandale Avenue

Many of you have undoubtedly driven past the road work beginning at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and Urbandale Avenue. The Merle Hay and Urbandale Widening Project is a cooperative effort between the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the City of Des Moines. The project consists of widening Merle Hay Road north and south of Urbandale Avenue from 49 feet in width to 65 feet in order to add left-turn lanes. The widening will extend north through the Boston Avenue intersection. Additionally, a raised median will be installed on Merle Hay Road within the vicinity of the intersection to improve safety.

The IDOT considers this intersection a high-crash location; from 2001-2005 there were a total of 64 reported crashes at the intersection. Another 25 accidents occurred north of Urbandale Avenue through the Boston Avenue intersection. These improvements will help reduce crashes. Work on the west side of Merle Hay Road is complete. The widening on the east side of Merle Hay Road will start in April 2011 and hopefully be completed in July of 2011. Drive carefully!



**Ward 3, Christine Hensley**  
Email: [hensley.chrissteve@gmail.com](mailto:hensley.chrissteve@gmail.com)  
Phone 515-237-1625

### Arts and Culture: A Growth Industry

What makes Des Moines a vibrant city?

I believe the answer lies within its people. A high quality of life is a major emotional factor in a person's decision to move or stay in a community. Quality of life is defined as those features that give individuals and communities an additional sense of pleasure, contentment and well-being. These include urban design such as well-designed streetscapes, alluring architecture and entrances into our city as well as the provision of urban amenities such as gardens, libraries, museums, public art, theaters, etc.

Successful public spaces are planned and designed in an integrated way that is appealing to different lifestyles. Miles of trails and beautiful greenways weave through our neighborhoods, business districts, along our rivers and into our parks. Public spaces are a significant part of the arts and culture of a community.

As an economic driver in Des Moines, arts and culture is a growth industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is the cornerstone of tourism. Together, arts and cultural organizations make purchases from hundreds of vendors in Polk County. Spending by these nonprofit organizations helps sustain employment and helps keep Des Moines strong. The arts give us our place in the world, and remind us what we are and what we could be.



**Ward 4, Brian Meyer**  
Email: [Brianjmeyerward4@gmail.com](mailto:Brianjmeyerward4@gmail.com)  
Phone : 515-999-0590

### Storm Sewer Improvements

Significant storm sewer improvements are underway in Ward 4, including: Jackson Avenue Detention Basin Pump Station; Livingston Avenue Storm Sewer Lining; and the Dean's Lake Storm Sewer Crossings. With the construction of a permanent pump station, the Jackson Avenue project significantly increases pumping capacity and reliability of the flood control system.

The Livingston Avenue Storm Sewer Lining Project includes lining the storm sewers in the area south of the confluence of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers to restore structural integrity and reduce failures.

The Dean's Lake Storm Sewer Crossing Project includes improvements to the storm sewer crossings under several roadways and railroads in the Dean's Lake Watershed from south of Dean Avenue to the Des Moines River that will increase stormwater conveyance capacity to the pump station constructed in 2008.

Last month, the city was awarded a grant to support construction of a new stormwater pump station north of the Des Moines River near SE 4th Street. The new pump station will be a tremendous improvement to the current portable pumps used at SE 4th Street and the outdated pump station at SE 9th Street.

Council also took further action to help attract new development to the area near Southridge Mall. A new tax district was created to encourage property owners to renovate and clean up their properties along Army Post Road. The Tax Increment Finance District uses property tax dollars in the area to help pay for the updates.

## Welcome Our New Director



Greg Heid  
Director  
DSM Public Library

Greg Heid has been named as the new director of the Des Moines Public Library and will begin work in January. He was most recently the director of the Newton County Library in Covington, Georgia. "I am honored

that the members of the Library Board of Trustees have selected me. It is quite a dynamic team of talented and dedicated individuals that I am joining," said Heid. "There are some challenges ahead, but many more exciting opportunities that lay before us which will enable the library system to continue to offer extraordinary levels of quality library service to the citizens of Des Moines."

In announcing the board's decision, Board President Susan Voss stated, "Heid's credentials are top notch and his references gave him outstanding reviews. We believe Greg will bring a positive message to the community leaders, city officials, and library customers."

Heid holds several degrees from the University of Minnesota including bachelor degrees in Media Communication Theory, Marketing, and Advertising; with a minor in Art History, as well as a master's degree in Library Science with a minor in Business Administration.



## Enter the Teen Video Challenge

Teens are invited to create a video promoting summer reading at the library this year, with a chance to **win \$250!** The idea is to create a 30- to 90-second video using the slogan "You are Here" in combination with reading and libraries. The State Library of Iowa will select the winning video, which may be used to reach teens all over the nation. Visit [www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/youthservices/slp/cslp](http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/youthservices/slp/cslp) to download the entry form. Contest is limited to participants between 13 and 18 years of age.

## Happy Birthday Clifford!

It's the Big Red Dog's birthday, so bring the entire family and help us celebrate Clifford's birthday at your local library!



February 12	Central Library	2:00 PM
February 14	Forest Ave. Library Southside Library	4:00 PM 6:30 PM
February 15	North Side Library Franklin Library/ MHM	10:30 AM 4:00 PM
February 16	Central Library	10:00 AM
February 17	East Side Library Franklin Library/ MHM	10:30 AM 6:30 PM
February 18	South Side Library	1:30 PM



Story Time Room Addition at Franklin Avenue Library.

## LEEDing the Way at Franklin Avenue Library

The renovated library is expected to qualify for LEED Platinum—the highest green building certification possible. Construction has required eco-friendly materials, recycling of many of the building's existing materials, and the addition of other environmental features such as solar panels for high efficiency heating and cooling systems. With an eye on future needs, there will even be three outlets in the parking lot for electric cars!

The library is expected to move out of its temporary location at Merle Hay Mall and back to the Franklin neighborhood by this summer.

Watch the web site at [www.dmpl.org](http://www.dmpl.org) for updates and a reopening celebration.

## Application for 2011 Dog/Cat License • City of Des Moines

All animals 6 months and older must be licensed.

- \$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)

March 31 is the deadline to purchase a pet license without a \$50 late fee!

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.

# Learn-to-Swim Spring Classes

Spring swimming lessons are now available! Des Moines Parks and Recreation in partnership with Des Moines Public Schools' Community Education Swimming Lesson Program will offer swimming lessons for children kindergarten and older at East High School in several Saturday morning time slots.

This course equips children with basic water safety skills and knowledge in order to make them reasonably safe while in or around the water. Instruction includes front float, back float, kicking and treading water offered in beginner, advanced beginner and intermediate levels. Pool depth is 42 inches.

---

**The spring session is April 2 to May 21; register after February 22 online at [www.dmced.org](http://www.dmced.org) Fee is \$30.00.**

---

Financial assistance is available thanks to The Friends of Des Moines Parks. Call 515-242-8521 for financial assistance or registration questions. To learn about Des Moines Park and Recreation's summer learn-to-swim program visit [www.dmparks.org](http://www.dmparks.org).



## Mayor's Annual Bike Ride Saturday, April 16, 2011

Help raise funds for Des Moines' recreational trails on this leisurely bike ride through area neighborhoods. Enjoy a live-music wrap-up event and light lunch at Simon Estes Amphitheater. Choose from two routes, 30-mile and 20-mile options.

- Rides begin at City Hall at 10:00 a.m.
- \$20 per person/\$25 after April 1
- \$5 family rate for each 5-18 year old (includes lunch/no event T-shirt)
- 4 years of age and younger FREE (does not include lunch or event T-shirt)

**Register online NOW or the morning of the ride from 8:30-9:45 a.m. Questions? Call 248-6332 or go to [www.dmparks.org](http://www.dmparks.org).**



## Embrace Winter

You'll want to grab a pen and circle the dates of February 4, 5 and 6 on your calendar!!! These are the dates of the 4th annual Des Moines Winter Games sponsored by Des Moines Parks and Recreation and Sleepy Hollow Sports Park. This event draws over 4,000 participants annually in individual and team events as well as hundreds of children who enjoy many free activities geared especially for them.

New for 2011 will be the Mullet Fun Run which starts and ends at one of Des Moines' newest eateries - Mullet's Restaurant located at 1301 SE First Street. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes and sport the proper haircut as prizes will be awarded for best "Natural Grown Mullet" and "Best Mullet Costume."

Again this year the Winter Games will start off with a splash – literally. Friday night's Polar Plunge is part of the pre-event party that starts at Sleepy Hollow at 5 p.m. Events for individuals on Friday include skiing and snowboarding competitions at Sleepy Hollow. Get a team together for fun, and of course competitive tournament play on Saturday and Sunday that includes adult Pond Hockey, Broomball, Men's and Coed Softball, and Flag Football at various park facilities. Other events include an Ice Fishing Derby at Easter Lake and the Rail Jam downtown on Court Avenue.

**Go to [www.dmparks.org](http://www.dmparks.org) or Des Moines Park and Recreation's Facebook page for more information and details about registration, rules, and times.**



## WANT A TREE?

**Request a tree be planted in front of your home. Requests must be received by City Forestry no later than March 15, 2011**

Send requests for street trees to the Forestry Office via email to Andy Foster at [wafoster@dmgov.org](mailto:wafoster@dmgov.org) or call in your requests at (515) 283-4950. If approved for a tree, forestry staff will schedule a tree planting for spring or fall.

# Your Sidewalk: Let's Make It Perfectly Clear

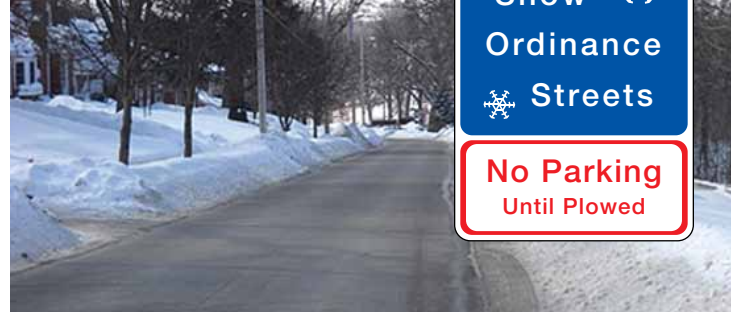


**A clear sidewalk means accessibility for everyone.** Did you know that snow and ice, trash carts, tree branches, shrubs, and even skateboard ramps can be dangerous obstacles? It is important to remember to keep your sidewalk in good condition and clear of all obstacles to ensure accessibility for all of our citizens. Remember:

1. Remove snow and ice within 48 hours.
2. Trim branches at a minimum height of 8 feet.
3. Cut back shrubs / bushes completely out of the sidewalk area.
4. Remove all debris, dirt, and other obstructions.

**Snow and Ice:** Sidewalks are the responsibility of abutting property owners. Residents are reminded that by city ordinance, snow and ice must be removed from the sidewalk within 48 hours following the end of the weather event. The city requires your sidewalk be shoveled the full width and length and if ice-covered, it must be treated with sand and/or ice melt. Property owners must also create at least one three-foot-wide opening in any snow bank at street corners. Property owners can be issued a fine of \$50 for a first time offense. To report sidewalk infractions, call 515-283-4950.

# Snow Ordinance Streets



Sixteen neighborhoods in Des Moines have had their streets designated as “Snow Ordinance Streets.” If you live in one of these neighborhoods, please be aware that there is a “No Parking” restriction on your street during snow plowing operations. This means residents must remove their vehicles from the street during snow plowing operations.

Residents can go to the City website at [www.dmgov.org](http://www.dmgov.org) to sign up for email alerts from the City so they will know when the snowplows will begin working in their neighborhoods. Once the street has been plowed curb to curb, residents may again park on the street.

Failure to comply may result in a \$35 ticket. Please be sure to check local media outlets and websites during snowfall events for additional and updated information.

## Neighborhoods:

- Accent
- Beaverdale
- Brook Run
- Douglas Acres
- Grays Woods
- Highland Park
- Lower Beaver
- Martin-Hickman
- Meredith
- Mondamin Presidential
- Pioneer Park
- Somerset
- Union Park
- Valley High Manor
- Waterbury
- Westwood

## MLK Parkway Extension *(Continued from page 1)*

Partnership; Richard Clark, City Manager; and Jeb Brewer, City Engineer. There was a brief presentation and an inaugural crossing of the bridge by special guests on a trolley provided by DART. Instead of cutting the big red ribbon, the trolley drove through the ribbon opening the bridge.

The new roadway opened after three years of construction and decades of planning. This section of the project cost approximately \$38 million. The city was successful in obtaining \$28 million in federal funds which included \$2.9 million from the MPO. The new extension of the parkway provides a major transportation connection to the east side of the river and increases opportunity for economic development.

The new bridge is higher than other downtown river crossings and should be



*Looking west on MLK Parkway at SE 9th Street*

able to remain open during future flood events. The bridge has entrance piers with canopies at each end, pedestrian lookouts, LED lighting accents on the pier extensions, and ornamental pedestrian railings. There are recreational trails under the bridge on each side of the river and complete trail connections to cross the river.

The new road is a four-lane, separated, urban arterial street with traffic speed planned for 35 mph. Designed under the city's Complete Street Policy, it has bike lanes in both directions, a multipurpose trail on the south, and a wide sidewalk on the north.

Work is continuing to develop the roadway further east. Federal and city funding is in place to construct the next section from SE 9th Street to SE 15th Street. The environmental document for the last leg of the roadway from SE 14th Street to US Highway 65 was completed in May 2010. Efforts are underway to obtain funding for further design and construction of this important corridor that will facilitate transportation and economic development of the southeast portion of the city.

# Top 10 Technology City 2010

## Des Moines Earns Another High Ranking

The Center for Digital Government and Digital Communities Program named the top-ranked local governments in the 10th Annual Digital Cities Survey in December. The survey recognizes municipalities that successfully incorporate information technology into operations to better serve constituents and businesses. Recognized cities have continued to realize operational objectives despite financial challenges, strategically investing to maximize dollars and effectively conduct the business of government.

The 2010 Digital Cities Survey winners for midsize cities with populations of 125,000 to 249,999 population are:

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Richmond, VA       | 7. Augusta, GA            |
| 2. Salt Lake City, UT | 8. Lakewood, CO           |
| 3. Norfolk, VA        | 8. Modesto, CA            |
| 4. Irving, TX         | 9. Hollywood, CA          |
| 5. Hampton, VA        | <b>10. Des Moines, IA</b> |
| 5. Winston-Salem, NC  | 10. Santa Clarita, CA     |
| 6. Alexandria, VA     |                           |

The areas of focus for the award are Operational and Administrative Efficiencies, Strategic Intentions, Citizen Engagement, and Open Government and Online Services.

The Information Technology Department unveiled a redesigned website in 2010. A more citizen centric approach provides A-Z guide to city services, email subscription and problem reporting. Users can put in any city address and get information on council wards, trash, zoning, neighborhoods and a number of other features.

Winners were honored by the National League of Cities. The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government.



DMTV Cable Channel is provided to the City of Des Moines free of charge by Mediacom Cable as a community service.

LIVE on the Web: [www.dmgov.org](http://www.dmgov.org)  
Tune in to Mediacom Channel 86 and 97-1

- **DSM CITY COUNCIL**  
7 p.m. Monday and Friday  
10 a.m. Wednesday and Sunday
- **DSM SCHOOL BOARD**  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6 p.m.
- **POLK CO. TRUANCY COURT**  
Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

## Airport Update

Major airport projects will improve service for central Iowa travelers at the Des Moines International Airport (DSM).

- The US Department of Transportation data reports that DSM improved its national average fare rankings by 66 positive positions. The addition of three low-fare carriers; AirTran, Branson AirExpress, and Frontier, has helped to lower all carriers' fares.
- Passenger numbers are up from last year indicating confidence in air travel is building again. DSM gained 1,200 seats for a daily capacity of approximately 9,000 inbound-outbound seats.
- United Airlines will resume nonstop air service to the New York City area with a flight to Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) starting in May 2011.
- The renovation of both concourses is complete and the lobby of the airport terminal is now being totally revamped. Excuse the mess for the next few months as improvements continue.



The \$5.8 million car rental facility at DSM International Airport is expected to be completed May 2011.

- Pizza Hut Express has joined the food retailers at DSM.
- The new Consolidated Rental Car Facility under construction has been enclosed and work on the interior continues during the winter months. The facility will be shared by the nine rental agencies and handle up to 480 vehicles in preparation for rental customers.
- Rehabilitation of the parking ramps is proceeding with better access for the long-term facility and a more convenient drop-off for rental cars.
- The large baggage handling units in the terminal lobby have been removed and a new common-use baggage handling system has been installed behind the ticket counters, along with a new centralized TSA baggage inspection system.





The City of Des Moines is continuously looking for ways to reduce operating costs across the board. This newsletter is an important public information source for residents and the only tool the city has that reaches every household within the city limits. The newsletter is available online but research has shown far too many residents do not have internet access. Therefore, our new approach is to seek sponsorships to defray the cost of printing and postage and would allow the city to continue this publication.

In future issues, readers will see advertising in the newsletter. Every effort will be made to maintain the present quality and integrity of the City Source newsletter and advertising guidelines have been established. Over time, our goal is to reduce the cost while continuing to keep you informed.

**Distribution** 80,000 households

**Readership** 77% of the city survey respondents read the City Source Newsletter

**Contact** Tonya Vitzthum,  
Associations Inc.  
319 E. 5th Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-280-7234  
tvitzthum@associationsinc.us.

Amelia Hamilton Morris, Editor  
City Hall / Public Information Office  
400 Robert D. Ray, Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
Email: akmorris@dmgov.org  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 am to 5 pm  
Phone: 515-283-4500



400 Robert D. Ray Drive  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1891

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Des Moines, IA  
Permit No. 4698  
ECRWSS

## Residential Customer

### An Award-Winning City (Continued from page 1)

completed last summer which is a 14,000 square foot, multi-tenant building including a restaurant, professional offices and small retail.

A new urban renewal district was created to help redevelop the area near Southridge Mall and encourage improvements along Southeast 14th Street and Army Post Road. Also underway, are plans to build a Municipal Service Center that will eliminate leased office space and combine work facilities for Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Traffic and Transportation offices.

This past year, the Des Moines City Council adopted a two-year balanced budget for the first time, with a continuance of no increase in the property tax rate. In order to adopt balanced budgets over the past five years, the Des Moines City Council has approved more than \$95 million in reductions, including aggressive debt refinancing that yielded \$13 million of savings. The cooperation of our MEA, Fire and SPM employees in accepting wage adjustments; that were less than the previously negotiated increases with other bargaining units; had a significant, positive impact on balancing the budget.

It has been a record year for public infrastructure improvements due in part to the increase of state and federal funding. The city awarded over \$137 million of public improvement contracts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, which is more than twice what is awarded in a typical year. The landmark \$9.5 million Center Street Pedestrian Bridge opened this summer and many important road projects were completed as well. The \$38 million extension

of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway from SW 2nd to SE 9th, which includes a new Des Moines River bridge, was one of the biggest road projects of the year. We have also made significant strides in flood protection with the Birdland and Central Place Levees, Court Avenue Pump Station, and the Jackson Avenue Detention Basin Pump Station. During the 2010 construction season, 44.3 lane-miles of street were resurfaced at a cost of \$4.3 million. For more on 2010 city improvements visit [www.dmgov.org](http://www.dmgov.org).

Des Moines survived the rocky economy of 2010 better than most cities. We will continue to provide the highest quality services possible to our residents and look forward to continued success in 2011.

**Forbes** - Des Moines is #1 place to raise a family (June)

**Forbes** - Des Moines is rated the #1 place for business and careers by Forbes after ranking 7th last year (April 13)

**Brookings Institution** - Des Moines is #2 on the economic performance list (June)

**Bestplaces.net** - Des Moines rank #6 best cities to move to in America (October 27)

**Kiplinger** - The #7 pick in Kiplinger's Best Cities 2010 is fertile ground for new jobs (July)

**National Civic League** - Des Moines receives its fifth All-America City award (June)

**Market Watch** - Des Moines ranks in the top 10 best cities for doing business for the second year in a row (December 20)