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The Des Moines Register

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Preparations continue Aug. 11, ahead of the 2026 Iowa State Fair.

FAST AND FAIR-IOUS

Setup was underway Tuesday, Aug. 11, to prepare for 11 days of livestock competitions, deep-fried goodies, animal calling contests and more.

The Iowa State Fair kicks off Thursday, Aug. 13, with an opening ceremony at 9 a.m.

Stick around for the Big Boar and Big Ram competitions in the afternoon. Then, country artist HARDY will grace the Grandstand stage for the first night of the fair.

PHOTOS BY CODY SCANLAN/THE REGISTER

Nik Norman, Anibella and Stacey Barona work Aug. 11 to clean the Giant Slide ahead of the Iowa State Fair's opening day.

Group has sites to build supportive housing

Isabelle Foland
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

After five years and three failed attempts, Greater Des Moines Supportive Housing has secured two metro sites to provide nearly 200 units of permanent supportive housing.

The organization closed on the purchase of buildings in Urbandale and West Des Moines on Aug. 7. The Urbandale campus, called the Solstice Cam-

pus, is at 3940 114th St. and will have 104 studio units. The West Des Moines location, Starling Campus, at 2701 Westown Parkway, will have 89 studio apartments. Both locations are former extended stay hotels.

In addition to fully furnished studio apartments, the campuses will feature on-site supportive services like case management and life skills training, community and recreational spaces and a variety of other amenities, including a food pantry, fitness center and green

space.

The buildings will include green design elements and accommodate residents aging in place, those who live with brain injuries and people previously experiencing homelessness, according to the nonprofit's website. There will also be no limits on the length of stay in the units.

The \$29 million project for the two locations is expected to begin renovation.

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Poll tells city what residents want cut

Survey commissioned by Des Moines officials

Virginia Barreda
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Eliminating Des Moines' floodplain property buyout program was the most-selected option on the city's budget calculator survey, according to results published by the city.

About 88% of respondents, or 2,027 people, chose eliminating the program — which has about \$400,000 set aside annually for acquiring properties in flood-prone areas — from a list of 37 possible service reductions or new revenue options across most city departments, making it the most popular choice.

About 84% of respondents were in favor of increasing the review time for the development services department to do site plan reviews. Another 82% said the city should add parks and recreation fees, including fees for non-residents.

The city's budget survey, which opened to the public in late June, sought input from community members on how the city could find savings as it contends with an upcoming \$12 million budget deficit in fiscal year 2028, which begins July 1, 2027.

Des Moines city officials, who predict an additional \$5 million gap in the 2029 budget year, blame the shortfall on state property tax law that limits the city's revenue growth. The state-level changes prompted the Des Moines city manager, finance director and City Council members to start budget discussions roughly six months earlier than most years.

The budget survey closed in late July.

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Critics take aim at Trump vaccine order

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump hailed his new order on childhood vaccines as a win for parental choice as doctors slammed the move, saying it could lead to greater risk of diseases that were rarely seen for generations.

Trump signed an executive order Aug. 10 aimed at giving American parents more control over what vaccines their children take, according to the White House. It urges U.S. states and territories to follow a new blueprint for administering vaccines that would

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