Welcome to West Des Moines!

The history of West Des Moines began in 1846, when James C. Jordan, Valley Junction’s first settler, pitched a tent between two oak trees on the western side of the Des Moines border. An individualist with a strong sense of moral values, Jordan eventually built a house on the site which later became a stop on the “Underground Railroad”. Jordan’s town of Valley Junction experienced significant growth from 1891-1896. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad moved its East Des Moines roundhouse, switching yards and repair shops to this area which until then had primarily been a community of coal miners. With the news of the railroad’s move into the area, several area businessmen purchased 40 acres of land east of 8th Street and a “downtown” was born.

Planning by early leaders of the Valley Junction community set standards for amenities considered basic today. In the first few years of incorporation these leaders were able to install sidewalks, gas and water mains, telephone service, and electricity, all services considered progressive at the time. The first City Hall was constructed in 1905 at 137 5th Street at a cost of $900. Continued growth resulted in the construction of several schools, churches and new buildings. On January 1, 1938, the city then known as Valley Junction adopted the new name of West Des Moines. The decline of the railroad industry and the Great Depression convinced community leaders that a new name would help spur progress and give the city a suburban image. Progress came and a suburban community emerged.
Can our paramedic be your neighbor?

She rushes to your side in case of emergency. She is on call to help you when you need it most. But she may not be able to afford to live near her work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our paramedic to enjoy safe and stable housing. And she helps keep you in good health, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a paramedic in Des Moines is: $37,879

If a single paramedic paid 30% of her income on rent monthly, she could pay: $947

In West Des Moines, our paramedic could afford this number of rental homes: 2,328

Meet the rest of our neighbors at: canibeyourneighbor.com

Who are your neighbors?

In West Des Moines...

3,082 households make less than $25,000 per year, or...

13% of the city.

8,959 rental homes

15,111 owner-occupied

1,640 renter households pay 30 to 50% of their income each month on rent.

1,175 renter households pay over 50% of their income each month on rent.
Granger, Iowa was founded on the land of Nathan Seiberling in 1884 and named after a railroad man, C.T. Granger, in 1885. The town was served by a railroad with a route from Des Moines to Perry, IA for nearly 70 years.

The first school in Granger was a one-room building that was burned down in 1897. Students continued to take classes in town above the Vail store until a new school was built in 1905, complete with a long blackboard, coat racks, a large stove, and a nearby well. Since 1905, the education system in Granger has evolved from a four-room brick structure with no electricity to the Woodward-Granger K-12 district, serving close to 1000 students.

In 1906, the winter quarters for the Yankee Robinson Show, a midwestern traveling circus, were established a short two miles southeast of Granger. Founder Fred Buchanan bought several acres of land and built a large two-story house and several outbuildings. This proved to be a fantastic space for circus animals to graze and watch the trains of the Interurban railroad go by. By 1926, Buchanan owned a total of 20 buildings in the city of Granger. Buchanan sold the Yankee Robinson Show in 1920, and started Robbins Brothers Circus two years later. The Robbins Brothers circus was prosperous until the depression caused the closing of the circus in 1930. Though not much remains of the circus quarters today, it was an active locality for 25 years.

Welcome to Granger!
Can our **bank teller** be your neighbor?

He’s the man across the counter at your neighborhood bank. You trust him to take care of your money. But he may not be able to afford to live near his work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our bank teller to enjoy safe and stable housing. And he helps you keep your finances in order, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a bank teller in Des Moines is: **$24,539**

If a single bank teller paid 30% of his income on rent monthly, he could pay: **$613**

In Granger, our bank teller could afford this number of rental homes: **48**

Meet the rest of our neighbors at: canibeyourneighbor.com

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Who are your neighbors?

**In Granger...**

86 households make less than **$25,000** per year, or... 18% of the city.

99 rental homes

382 owner-occupied

24 renter households pay **30 to 50%** of their income each month on rent.

19 renter households pay **over 50%** of their income each month on rent.