

# Fire Prevention a Daily Task

Although the National Fire Prevention Week is always designated the week of October 5-11 – the anniversary of the great Chicago fire – citizens should be aware of the need for fire prevention on a daily basis.

In spite of a long history of great fire protection, the United States leads the world in fire deaths, injuries, and fire losses. You and your family can help reduce this loss and provide a safer environment in which to live and work.

Men, women, and children are the causes of fire. The misuse of fire producing products – candles, matches, cigarette lighters, stoves, ovens, etc. – is the leading cause of fire each year. The failure to properly maintain appliances and equipment is another major cause of fires. Please be careful, properly maintain or replace your appliances and equipment, and make fire safety a serious program in your home and business.

Smoke detectors are your first line of detection in the event of a fire. Fire Codes require working smoke detectors in every sleeping area and on every level of a residence. The key word is WORKING! While most homes have detectors many of them have dead batteries or no batteries at all. Please check your detectors now. Replace the batteries, if necessary, and buy extras so family members don't take the batteries out to use elsewhere.

The careless use of candles has been the leading cause of residential fires in Windsor Heights in the past three years. Everyone seems to want to use candles, which are

frequently placed next to combustibles, or are forgotten until they burn down and ignite something. Please be careful when using candles and do not allow the youngsters to light or play with them.

Poor maintenance of fireplaces and chimneys are also a cause of fires. If you have a fire place please have the chimney cleaned and checked each year. Be sure to use only dry, aged logs or natural gas. Freshly cut green logs cause a buildup of creosote in the chimney that later, when heated, will ignite and cause a fire that could easily extend from the chimney into the home.

Poorly maintained, or improperly installed electrical equipment has been the major cause of commercial fires in the City over the past few years. Check the electrical equipment in your place of work. Make sure they are properly installed and maintained.

If you have questions about fire safety, wish to have a fire safety check of your home or business, or would like a firefighter to visit your club or organization please call us at 279-3663.



# Windsor Heights Wants Your Help!

Are you interested in charting the course of special events in your community? Are you interested in business development in the area? What capital improvements do you think need to be made? There are a number of volunteer opportunities available throughout the community. Many organizations are seeking people interested in working towards the continuous improvement of Windsor Heights. Participation opportunities are available in:

- Windsor Heights Special Events Committee (This committee works on the July 4th Celebration; Oktoberfest, Windsor Wonderland, Movies in the Park, etc.)
- Windsor Heights Capital Planning Committee (This group identifies capital needs for the City's long-term infrastructure maintenance and improvement.)
- Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber works to promote and support members, local businesses and organizations through advocacy, publicity and education, while working to promote the growth of their members, economic development and the quality of life in Windsor Heights.)
- Windsor Heights Foundation. (The Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization, whose mission is to raise funds to enable it to implement, support and maintain projects and programs, which will benefit the entire community.)
- Windsor Heights Neighborhood Association. (The purpose of the Association is to help maintain and improve the quality of life in the Windsor Heights community by working in partnership with the city government, local businesses, and other community organizations.)
- Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch.

If you are interested in participating in any of these organizations, please email moliver@windsorheights.org with the title of the organization or committee you are interested in as the subject line and your contact information in the body of the email.

See us on the Web at [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org)!

# City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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## Windsor Heights Foundation Establishes Endowment Fund; 3E Makes Inaugural Gift

The Windsor Heights Foundation has officially established an endowment fund to benefit the city and its residents. 3E –Electrical Engineering and Equipment Company, headquartered in Windsor Heights, has committed to a \$20,000 inaugural gift.

John Temple, 3E Director of Marketing, presented the first installment of the gift to the Foundation at the August 5, Music in the Park concert, in Colby Park.

3E, which began business in 1920 with only six employees, was recently ranked in the June 2008 issue of Electrical Wholesale Magazine as the United States' 52nd largest electrical distributor with over 285 employees. Originally headquartered in Des Moines the company began its expansion in 1995. Between 1995 and 2000 they opened three new facilities in Waterloo, Davenport, and Burlington.

In 2001, the company headquarters moved to its current home at 953 73rd Street in Windsor Heights. Most recently, in the twelve month period from June 2007 through May 2008, 3E has added three distribution locations in Sioux City, Ottumwa, and Cedar Rapids. The new Cedar Rapids branch is the company's seventh full service electrical supply distribution location.

In addition to the seven distribution locations, 3E also has an east Des Moines location that serves as the home of their Electrical Apparatus Repair, Steel Manufacturing, and Generator Sales, Service, and Rental divisions. The 3E Generator Division, which represents the Kohler Power Systems product line in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, also has sales and service offices in Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Omaha, Sioux City, and Sioux Falls.

The company selected the Windsor Heights site because of access to the Interstate, its central location to the metro, and the quality and reputation of the Windsor Heights community. Jeff Stroud, company President &

CEO, felt strongly that 3E should be a supporter of the neighboring community.

"We wanted to be able to give back to the community," said Stroud. "So when we were planning the building we asked the architects to design it to allow community groups to use the conference center. This gift to the endowment fund is another way to help support a community we call home."

The Windsor Heights groups that have used the facility to date include the Police Department, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Watch, Holiday Park Little League, and the Republican Caucuses.

"This is a gift that we celebrate," Windsor Heights Foundation Board of Directors president George Hanusa said. "Because it marks the first step in achieving a goal for which the Foundation was established. When the Windsor Heights Foundation was formed in 1985, a fundamental purpose was to provide long range benefits to the community by making it possible for people to make bequests or other planned gifts. We appreciate deeply the support of 3E in this endeavor."

According to Hanusa, the Windsor Heights Foundation Endowment Fund will be appropriately invested and managed so that its principal can grow and interest earnings be used for programs and projects for the good of the community. Possibilities include programs for family enjoyment, senior citizens and college scholarships for Windsor Heights youth.

Friends and citizens of Windsor Heights are encouraged to consider an estate gift or significant planned gift of some kind directed to the Endowment Fund. For information, contact George Hanusa at 255-6367 or e-mail [geojanh@msn.com](mailto:geojanh@msn.com).



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the heart of it all  
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[www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org)

# 50324th Celebration Thank You!

The City of Windsor Heights would like to thank everyone who helped make the 50324th Celebration on August 2nd such a huge success! The new performance pavilion proved to be a great addition to our park and was appreciated both by those in attendance and by the bands performing who commented that the pavilion was a perfect staging platform.

A huge thank you goes out to those who volunteered their time to help make everything run smoothly. Without volunteers, events like the 50324th Celebration could not happen. Everyone from the ticket takers to the City's great Police and Fire Department and our various civic organizations deserve a round of applause for making everything happen on August 2nd after the normal 4th of July activities were delayed.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped make the 50324th Celebration a huge success and we look forward

to the return of the 4th of July activities next year! Thank you to the following people and organizations. (If anyone is missing from this list, please let either Marketa Oliver or Josh Heggen at City Hall know so that we can provide you with your much-deserved recognition).

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Flo Hunter                            | Diana Willits          |
| Charlene Butz                         | Donna Markley          |
| Angie Piziali                         | George Hanusa          |
| Sylvia Owens                          | Jerry Adams            |
| Stacey, Rory & Katrina Long           | Sandy Davidson         |
| Keith & Mary Lou Graybill             | Ernest & Jordan George |
| Cindy Chamberlin                      | Karen Williams         |
| Arvin Olson                           | Terry Anderson         |
| WH Foundation                         | The Lions Club         |
| WH Neighborhood Watch                 | Elks Club              |
| Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance |                        |

## Contact Us! City of Windsor Heights

**Emergency Phone Numbers**  
**Fire Department** .....911  
**Police Department** .....911

**Non-Emergency Phone Numbers**  
**Police/Fire** .....286-3632  
**City Hall** .....279-3662

**Mayor** .....Jerry Sullivan  
**Council Members:**  
 Diana Willits  
 Flo Hunter  
 Carole Tillotson  
 Charlene Butz  
 Steve Peterson

**City Admin.** .Marketa George Oliver  
**Chief Financial Off.** .Colleen Pingrey  
**Fire Chief** .....Christopher Cross  
**Police Chief** .....Gary Walters  
**Public Works Director** John Wiedman  
**Director of Comm. Svcs.** Josh Heggen

**Police Department:**  
**Police Dispatch** .....286-3632  
**Police Admin/Records** . .277-4453  
**Police Investigations** . . .277-4455

**Fire Department** .....279-3662

**Public Works Dept.** . . . .279-3662  
**Colby Park Reservations** 279-3662  
**Building Inspector** . . . . .669-6881  
**Animal Control** . . . . .279-3662

**2** City Council Meetings - 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	8 KWHB Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	9 Mayor's Hour 9-10AM (City Hall) WH Foundation Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	10	11 WH Seniors Comm. Meeting 9:30 AM (City Hall)	12	13
14	15 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 KWHB Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	24	25	26	27 Community Coffee Club 9-10:30 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall) KWHB Meeting 7PM (City Hall)	7	8	9 WH Seniors Committee Meeting 9:30 AM (City Hall)	10	11
12	13	14 Mayor's Hour 9-10AM (City Hall) WH Foundation Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	15	16	17	18
19 Lions Club Chili Supper 5-7 PM (HyVee)	20 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	21	22	23	24	25 Community Coffee Club 9-10:30 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
26	27	28	29	30 Beggars Night 6-9 PM	31 Halloween	



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Windsor Heights Seniors

All seniors and guests are welcome to join the Windsor Heights Seniors meeting on September 25, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Polk County Community Center, located at 5110 Franklin Avenue, Des Moines. The speaker will be Max & Liz Isaacson, talking about "Trip to India." Coffee and conversation following program. For more information, call 986-0461.

## Iowa One Call

Residents undertaking projects involving digging and excavating are reminded to call Iowa One Call. Under Iowa statute if you plan to dig deeper than 12 inches, you are required to make the toll-free call at least 48 hours before digging. The service is FREE to anyone who requests it. Use of Iowa One Call eliminates the risk of service disruption in homeowners' and neighbors' yards. It also greatly reduces risk of severe personal injury, and even death. Before any digging or excavation starts, Iowans need to know they should first call Iowa One Call at 1-800-292-8989 to have their utilities marked. It's not only in their best interest, it's the law.

## Lions Club Chili Supper

The Windsor Heights Lions Club will be host their annual chili supper on Sunday, October 19 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at our local Hy-Vee Food Store. Lions Club representatives will be knocking on your door in the next couple of months selling tickets for this annual event. Please support your local Lions Club by stopping by on October 19th for a bowl of our great chili, garlic bread, dessert, and drinks.

## At Your Service ... Sewer Problems

Residents experiencing slow drains and/or sewer back ups are encouraged to call the Public Works department at 279-3662 or after hours at 286-3333. Public Works will check the main and clean any blockages. Blockages located in the home sewer system are the responsibility of the home owner. Windsor Heights has a scheduled inspection and maintenance program. Be advised, according to case law, municipalities cannot be held responsible for any damage resulting from sewer back-ups if they maintain an inspection and maintenance program.

## Very Important Reminders

- It is not allowed to grow grass more than six inches tall. It is also illegal to blow leaves and grass clippings into the street.
- All pets must be licensed with the city yearly. No owner of any dog, cat or other animal or person has control or responsibility thereof, shall allow or permit such animal to run at large. Furthermore, pet owners are reminded that while walking your pets, you are responsible for picking up after them.
- You can not add gravel or other rock to an existing driveway made of the same material. If it is time to add gravel or rock to have a driveable surface, then the driveway should be brought up to code. Driveway regulations are available at City Hall for your viewing. Your driveway must be paved and up to code before you sell your property.
- All single family rental properties must be inspected every 18 months and multi-family dwellings every 12 months.
- There must be a 25 foot clear zone at all corners. Please maintain trees and bushes to insure intersection safety.
- Blocking mailboxes is prohibited. Residents with street-side mailboxes will not get their mail if a car is blocking the mailbox. You must be 25 feet from a mailbox when parking.
- There is no parking at the end of deadend streets.
- Vehicles and boats must be parked on hard surfaces, such as concrete or asphalt. City code prohibits the parking of vehicles or boats on your lawn.

Thank you for your efforts to make Windsor Heights cleaner and more attractive!

