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City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER 

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Asset Forfeiture

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State and local law enforcement agencies may use funds received for:

- Activities that will enhance future investigations;
- Law Enforcement training;
- Law Enforcement equipment and operations;
- Law Enforcement facilities;
- Asset accounting and tracking;
- Transfers to state and local law enforcement agencies;
- May use up to 15% for the costs associated with drug treatment, drug and crime prevention programs, housing and jobs skills programs or other nonprofit, community based programs or activities formally approved by the chief law enforcement officer;
- State and local law enforcement agencies may not transfer cash;
- An officer replacing an officer assigned to a task force, so long as the replacement officer's primary duties do not include the seizure of assets;

- Officers assigned to non-traditional law enforcement functions;
- Funds may not be used for non-law enforcement expenses;
- Forfeited property may not be used by non-law enforcement personnel and property put into official use may not be used for personal purposes.

The source of this information is the US Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program Equitable Sharing at a Glance published in October, 2008.

The Windsor Heights Police Department has used asset forfeitures for vehicles, crime scene investigation equipment, enhanced building security system, office furniture, replacement weapons, carpeting, and training equipment to date in 2008 in excess of \$72,000. Each of these dollars received and used as a saving to the City taxpayers is because of the availability of asset forfeiture dollars.

Use Caution with Space Heaters

If you plan to use space heaters to help heat your home this winter, use extreme caution. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) supplemental heating equipment, such as electrical and kerosene heaters, is the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February and trails only cooking equipment as the leading cause of home fires year-round.

As the cost of heating homes increases the number of ways people try to heat their home increases as well. People that use improvised heating sources such as using gas stoves and camp style heating devices for home heating are opening themselves and their families up to an immediate life safety hazard.

By not using stoves and other improvised heating sources you can reduce the risk of a fire or Carbon Monoxide incident. Space heaters are also a common sight in many homes and they are a whole different ballgame and should be used and maintained as follows:

- Space heaters have one function - to provide supplemental heat. Don't use them to warm bedding, cook food, thaw pipes or dry clothing. Misusing space heaters can put you and your family at risk of fire or burn injuries.

- Select heating equipment that has the UL Mark. The UL Mark on a product means that UL technical staff members have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards.
- Remember that 3-foot safety zone. Keep things that burn at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- Turn off space heaters when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.
- Supervise children and pets at all times when space heaters are in use. Even the slightest contact with a heating coil or element can cause a severe burn.
- If you have an electric space heater, check for frayed insulation, broken wires or overheating. Have all problems repaired by a professional technician before operating.
- When buying space heaters, look for devices with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards.
- If you have a liquid-fueled space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment's design limits and cause a serious fire.

If you have any questions regarding the proper function of your home heating device please contact a certified H.V.A.C. technician or electrician.

Countdown to 50324!

The City's new zip code, 50324, takes effect July 1, 2009. "This has been a long time in the making," said Mayor

Jerry Sullivan. "We are extremely grateful to Congressman Boswell for helping us in this effort. We are also very appreciative for the support Senators Harkin and Grassley gave to the effort last summer. This issue was one of the priorities on the Greater Des Moines Partnership regional agenda for a number of years and we thank our regional partners for their support for this issue as well."

Council Member Diana Willits has been working on this issue for nearly 10 years. "The long-term benefits for the City are incredible, not only from a communications standpoint but for the vitality and financial well-being of the City."

The City would also like to thank the Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce for its support; Windsor Heights Neighborhood Association for their work on this issue; the Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful Committee and the Boy Scouts for delivering door hangers about the zip code survey.

The change to a unique zip code will take effect on July 1, 2009. Residents and businesses will have from June 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 to notify correspondents of the new zip code. Mail will be forwarded during that period. The City will also provide any citizen requesting it, 30 return address labels to ease the transition of notifying correspondents of your new zip code. Simply stop by City Hall and staff will help you with that. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 279-3662.

Asset Forfeiture Program Explained

The Asset Forfeiture Program is a nationwide law enforcement initiative that removes the tools of crime from criminal organizations, deprives wrongdoers of the proceeds of their crimes, recovers property that may be used to compensate victims, and deters crime. Asset Forfeiture has been used to attack the financial infrastructure of criminal enterprises, return funds to victims of large-scale fraud, and share forfeited property with state and local law enforcement agencies.

Local law enforcement is calculated by the proportion of our direct involvement in the criminal investigation from which the assets are forfeited. Our agency is required by federal law to submit an audit of funds received and their use in July of each year.

How can funds be used? Shared funds must be used to increase or supplement the resources of the receiving state or local law enforcement agency. This policy allows law enforcement agencies to use equitable shared funds for any permissible purpose as long as shared funds increase the entirety of the law enforcement effort. *continued on page 4*



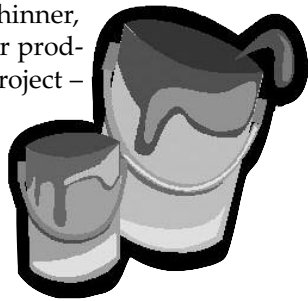
City of
Windsor Heights
the heart of it all
1133 66th Street
Windsor Heights, IA 50311
(515) 279-3662
www.windsorheights.org

Stop, Drop & Shop!

The Metro Waste Authority Regional Collection Center (RCC) is a service funded and provided for by your local landfill. At the RCC, you can **STOP** by and **DROP** off your partially filled containers of cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, workshop supplies, car wax, antifreeze and more.

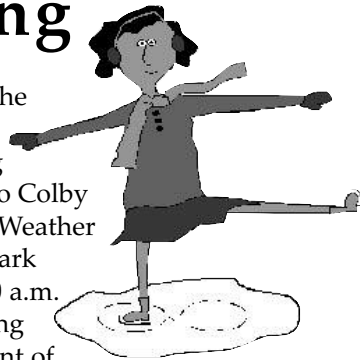
While you're there, take a minute and browse through our **SWAP SHOP**. We have just the right amount of this and that (including fertilizer, paint thinner, drain cleaner, varnishes, aerosols, car products, etc.) for your next household project - and it's free! The RCC is located at 225 Prairie Drive, Bondurant.

For more information about the RCC recycled paint program, call at 515-967-5512.



Ice Skating

Let's go skating! In the month of January and February, bring your friends and family to Colby Park and go ice skating! Weather permitting, skate in the park between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The skating rink will be located in front of the tennis courts. Please remember you are skating at your own risk. The City of Windsor Heights will not be responsible for any injuries or losses of any kind that occur before, after, or during skating. We look forward to seeing you at the park. Have fun and be careful. If you have questions, please call City Hall at 279-3662.



Contact Us! City of Windsor Heights

Emergency Phone Numbers

Fire Department911
Police Department911

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers

Police/Fire286-3632
City Hall279-3662

MayorJerry Sullivan

Council Members:

Diana Willits
Flo Hunter
Carole Tillotson
Charlene Butz
Steve Peterson

City Admin. .Marketa George Oliver

Chief Financial Off. .Colleen Pingrey

Fire ChiefChristopher Cross

Police ChiefGary Walters

Public Works Director John Wiedman

Director of Comm. Svcs. Josh Heggen

Police Department:

Police Dispatch286-3632

Police Admin/Records . .277-4453

Police Investigations . .277-4455

Fire Department279-3662

Public Works Dept. . . .279-3662

Colby Park Reservations 279-3662

Building Inspector669-6881

Animal Control279-3662

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	6	7	8 New Years Day City Offices Closed	9	10
11	12 KWHB Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	13 Mayor's Hour 9-10AM (City Hall) WH Foundation Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	14	15	16	17
18	19 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	20	21	22	23	24 Community Coffee Club 9-10:30 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	3	4	5 WH Seniors Committee Meeting 9:30 AM (City Hall)	6	7
8	9 KWHB Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	10 Mayor's Hour 9-10AM (City Hall) WH Foundation Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Community Coffee Club 9-10:30 AM (Grounds for Celebration)

NEWS BRIEFS

Snow Ordinance Reminder

For the safety of our residents and visitors alike, the City of Windsor Heights strictly enforces parking restrictions during snow restrictions during snow removal.

Windsor Heights Ordinance 25.110 prohibits parking on any City street during the time of any snow fall and for a period of 24 hours following the end of any snow fall.

Owners of vehicles found in violation of this Ordinance will be issued a summons and the vehicle may also be impounded.

Pet License

Dog and cat owners are reminded to have their pets licensed and tagged. This allows the City to quickly notify their owners should the pets stray and be picked up. Licenses cost \$10.00 for altered pets and \$20.00 for unaltered pets. There is an additional \$1.00 per month penalty if your pet is not licensed prior to April 1st. Pets must have proof of their current rabies vaccination from their vet, with a minimum of 6 months remaining before expiration. Thank you to all who have registered.

Council Agenda

During January and February, the City will be discussing the budget. Budget information will be on the website and in the newspaper.

Renters Fire Insurance

Do you live in a rented house or apartment? If so, do you have fire insurance? The cost is nominal and is an important part of your insurance package. A fire in your rented home could result in a total loss of your possessions - either by smoke or fire - and without insurance could place you in a great financial bind. Contact your insurance agent today to make sure you have the proper coverage.



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.

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.



Grant Funding Approved

The City of Windsor Heights is pleased to announce that the Transportation Commission has formally approved the City's Site Specific Transportation Safety Improvement Program application for the requested amount of \$500,000. The application was for the 63rd/Hickman/Westover infrastructure improvement project. This is also in addition to the \$1,388,000 Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program grant that the City received earlier this year for this project.

These grants help offset the costs of the overall Hickman Corridor Project. The City is continually seeking grant and other outside funding opportunities for a variety of projects and needs. This brings the 2008 total of grants and outside contributions to more than \$2,000,000.