



City of
Windsor Heights
 November 2009
Newsletter

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 (515) 279-3662 • www.windsorheights.org

What is Windsor Heights doing to help property owners with current economic issues?

Given the news about the state of the country's economy, the City of Windsor Heights is doing the following to assist residents and businesses in this difficult time.

- Lowering the levy rate by \$1.02 last year and an anticipated reduction this year.
- This saves a typical residential property owner \$38.52 per year
- This saves a business owner with the median value of an improved commercial property of \$416,750 a total of \$421.01 in City taxes
- Providing assistance and support to the food pantry that serves Windsor Heights' residents
- The City also provides a collection place for donations of food and personal items and incorporates collection campaigns into many special events
- The City participates with other communities in a joint program called Metro Home Improvement Program to offer forgivable loans of up to \$12,500 for low-to-moderate income homeowners to make necessary improvements to their homes
- The City has budgeted to support *no-to-low* cost family activities such as movies in the park and July 4th activities
- The City renegotiated a variety of contracts recently to achieve a savings of \$65,000 annually
- Investment in infrastructure

The City has many infrastructure projects planned for FY 2009-2010. Infrastructure projects not only improve and maintain the City's assets; they also have a ripple effect on the local economy. Major projects included in this and next year's budget are:

- Street resurfacing in the amount of \$637,540+, including the resurfacing of 73rd Street from Center to Hickman
- Construction of the community center at Colby Park
- Construction of an entryway feature at 63rd and University
- Upgrades to Hickman Road at 63rd Street and on Hickman between 63rd and Westover
- Implementation of slip lining program for City sewers, representing a \$250,000 investment that is expected to lengthen the life of our sewer pipes by 50 years
- Implementation of a pavement management system and implementation of a storm sewer intake replacement program
- The City also recently finished a sewer upgrade project at 68th and School Street; water main replacements on 64th Street and the enhancement of the 70th/Hickman intersection

Don't forget to vote!

Because only one of the six candidates running for City Council received enough votes to be elected, a runoff election has to be held to fill the two remaining seats. The runoff City council election will be Tuesday, December 1st with polls opening at 7 am and closing at 8 pm. The candidates on the ballot will include Flo Hunter, Carole Tillotson, Betty Glover and Dave Jenison. If you have any questions or need information on how to register or where to vote, please call City Hall at (515) 279-3662.

Annual Holiday Lighting Contest

The Windsor Heights Foundation is once again sponsoring a holiday lighting contest. The Foundation will divide the city into six zones and award a \$50.00 prize to the winner in each zone. The Foundation will award an additional \$50.00 for the "Best of the Best." The Foundation will provide the contest winners with recognition signs to place in their yards. The Foundation will also recognize businesses that decorate for the holidays.

Judging will take place between 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. from Tuesday, December 8th through Tuesday, December 15th and the Foundation is asking residents to make sure that their decorations are in place and lit during this time.

The Foundation has selected these criteria for judging the displays:

1. Consistent theme (not a mix of secular and religious)
2. Balanced design; not cluttered or overdone
3. Creativity in design
4. Originality, including "hand-crafted" elements
5. Minimum use of "plastic"
6. Display looks good by day as well as by night

Past
 Winner



JERRY SULLIVAN, MAYOR • DIANA WILLITS, COUNCIL MEMBER • CAROLE TILLOTSON, COUNCIL MEMBER



responsibility
windsor heights
POLICE

WINDSOR HEIGHTS POLICE: READY TO SERVE YOU

The City of Windsor Heights prides itself on having a terrific police force ready to service you. The City has a total of 13 sworn positions that include two Investigators, eight Patrol Officers and three working supervisory personnel. The City also has 4 part-time staff members. Our patrol staff is highly respected throughout the metro area for our diligence on traffic enforcement and OWI enforcement. Patrol provides 24 hour coverage 7 days a week. We are very fortunate to have the latest available training for our staff through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and the Midwest Counter Drug Training Center both located at Camp Dodge. Of our two Investigators one is assigned full-time to handle all criminal investigations within our City and the other Investigator is assigned full-time to narcotics investigations serving with the DEA Task Force stationed in Des Moines.

Police Chief, Gary Walters, is the Chief Administrator of the police department and has regular hours 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Chief Walters oversees budget, Department activities, short/long-term planning, policies/regulations of the agency, interaction with department heads and elected officials, and represents City on numerous metro committees including but not limited to Polk County Emergency Management, MPO Traffic Management, Polk County Public Health, Polk County Communications, Polk County Chiefs of Police Association, and the Polk County Law Enforcement Executive Association. The Chief provides backup to police officers when needed, patrols special events and at other times when needed and provides traffic control services as appropriate.

Captain Dennis McDaniel is on duty 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday – Friday and is second in Charge of the Police Department. He is the Patrol Coordinator and oversees Training, the Recruitment and Hiring process, Crime Prevention, Investigations, Case Management, Internal Affairs/Professional Standards, Staff Scheduling, Equipment Procurement, and assignments given by the Chief on a daily basis. Captain McDaniel also serves as a Defensive Tactics instructor, Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) instructor, Patrol Response to Active Shooters instructor, Field Training Coordinator, Immediate Past Chairman of the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force, and represents the Department on several other committees. McDaniel patrols on a regular basis and provides back up for front-line officers.

Lieutenant Derek Meyer, is the front-line supervisor for the late shift from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., Tuesday – Saturday. Lt. Meyer supervises evening and night Patrol activities, maintains software and hardware on entire City computer system, maintains vehicles and equipment for in-car systems, and coordinates all upgrades on our record management system and our communications system and assignments given by the Chief and Captain on a daily basis. Meyer also serves as an Advanced Accident Investigator and patrols regularly and provides back up for front-line officers.

The City's goal is to have two officers patrolling at all times and we are currently able to meet that goal the vast majority of time. If, however, there is a time when we cannot meet that goal, we do have access to additional backup through our mutual aid agreements with Clive, Urbandale and West Des Moines.

The Police Department is proud of the service levels offered to our residents and hopes that you will rarely need an officer, but we are ready to serve you when you do.

Windsor Heights/Urbandale Food Pantry

The Windsor Heights/Urbandale Food Pantry opened its doors October 2008 to assist Urbandale and Windsor Heights residents in need of food and/or personal care products. Urbandale and Windsor Heights residents in need are eligible to use the Food Pantry once each month. To receive assistance, proof of residency in Urbandale or Windsor Heights must be confirmed by presenting a current billing statement that includes the name and address of the resident. An I.D. for each member of the household to be served must also be presented.

Monetary donations may be made directly to the Food Pantry and go toward purchasing food at discounted rates through the Food Bank of Iowa. If your business or organization is interested in a partner level of support, please contact the Food Pantry coordinator. Food donations may be made at City Hall or through area churches, in Red Barrels at selected grocery locations and to DMARC at 3816 36th Street, #202, Des Moines, Iowa, for distribution to area food pantries including the Food Pantry. The Urbandale Food Pantry accepts donations of unused and unopened personal care products. The most needed items include: 8 oz. bottles of shampoo/conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, sanitary napkins and diapers.

Volunteers are a valuable resource and vital to the effective operation of the Food Pantry. To volunteer, contact your pantry coordinator at your church or contact the Windsor Heights/Urbandale Food Pantry, (515) 251-6688. All volunteers must complete an application to be considered for work at the pantry and undergo a background check. Underage volunteers (17 years old or younger) must also present a permission slip signed by a parent.

Neighborhood Watch Upcoming meeting

The Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch will hold its quarterly meeting on Saturday, November 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the 3E building north of the Freeway at 953 73rd Street in the Large Conference room. All residents of Windsor Heights are more than welcome to attend.

Remember there's no cost or obligation what so ever to attend or to join the Neighborhood Watch. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bill Shepherd at (515) 650-3100 or whneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

How do we measure up compared to other cities our size around the state or in our area when it comes to our levy rate, taxes paid and the amount of debt we have? Read on and find out!

- The median levy rate for Iowa cities between 3,000 and 7,000 is \$14,214.39 per thousand dollars of taxable valuation. The Windsor Heights current levy rate is \$13,763.98, which is \$45 LESS than the median.
- The average city taxes actually paid by in the suburban areas is \$1,021.22, slightly more than the \$1,109.44 in city taxes the average taxpayer in Windsor Heights would pay.
- Des Moines and most suburbs in Polk County currently carry debt service that uses an average of 63.46% of their constitutional debt limits. Windsor Heights carries an average amount of debt with outstanding obligations constituting 63.09% of our constitutional debt limit. Altoona and Polk City are excluded from this comparison because they have revenue sources (Prairie Meadows and Sales Tax, respectively) that are not available to the other suburbs.



CHARLENE BUTZ, COUNCIL MEMBER • FLO HUNTER, COUNCIL MEMBER • STEVE PETERSON, COUNCIL MEMBER