

Local Economic Climate

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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.

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?

- The median levy rate for Iowa cities between 3,000 and 7,000 is \$14.21439 per thousand dollars of taxable valuation. The Windsor Heights current levy rate is \$13.76398, which is \$0.45 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.

Be a Dear – Don't Feed the Deer!

The City of Windsor Heights joins with many other state and local agencies in asking you to refrain from feeding of wildlife, particularly deer in the area. This practice almost always carries with it negative consequences for the wildlife involved. (These include increased disease transmission and increased mortality due to vehicle collisions). In addition, there could be safety and social concerns for members of the public, such as the potential increase in vehicle collisions, as well as damage to property and nuisance problems.

There are a number of deer along Walnut Creek and throughout the community. We realize that people who feed deer, do so with good intention. However, even though you may feel you are helping them if you feed them, please bear in mind that wildlife should remain wild. They should find their food and shelter in natural habitats. This gives them the on-going ability to adapt and survive.

People are often tempted to feed deer during winter in order to "save" them from winter conditions. This practice causes a particular set of problems. Research has shown that there is actually little or no benefit from feeding deer during winter. In fact, there are a number of negative consequences. Here is why you should not feed deer or provide salt licks:

- Artificial feeding may not actually improve winter survival.
- Deer visiting feeding areas lose their natural wildness and aversion to people.
- Feeding manufactured food products removes their natural adaptations to cope with severe winters in their natural habitat.
- Natural migration patterns to their wintering areas may be disrupted if the animals are enticed to remain at a feeding area.
- Deer become concentrated around feeding areas, resulting in destruction of natural habitat.
- Concentrations of deer at feeding stations also increase the risk of disease transmission among the animals.
- The digestive system of deer adapts to the typical natural food that is available during winter. Improper feeding of other food types can cause digestive problems that may result in death.
- Deer that become accustomed to feeders and are then not fed proper quantities or quality of food will also die.

See us on the Web at www.windsorheights.org!

City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Local Economic Climate

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

- The City reduced the levy rate by MORE THAN a dollar from last year's levy rate.
- 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 provides a financial contribution to support the Urbandale/Windsor Heights Food Pantry.
- The City also provides a collection place for donations of food and personal items and incorporates collection campaigns into many special events.

Providing home rehabilitation assistance to low-to-moderate income families

- 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.

No to low cost family activities

- The City has budgeted to support no to low cost family activities such as movies in the park and July 4th activities.

Reduction in budget areas

- The City previously sent three representatives annually to Washington, DC. Now that the primary goal of securing a unique zip code has been accomplished, the City will send only one person to participate in the annual federal legislative meetings.
- The City renegotiated a variety of contracts recently to achieve a savings of \$65,000 annually!

Investment in infrastructure

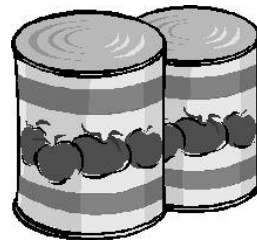
- The City has many infrastructure projects planned for FY 2009-2010. Infrastructure

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City of Windsor Heights
the heart of it all

1133 66th Street
Windsor Heights, IA 50324
(515) 279-3662
www.windsorheights.org



Food Pantry Needs

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 Urbandale 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 Urbandale 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 Windsor Heights Urbandale 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 Urbandale 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 Urbandale Food Pantry. To volunteer, contact your pantry coordinate 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.

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 Jason Van Ausdall

Director of Comm. Svcs. Josh Heggen

Police Department:

Police Dispatch286-3632
Police Admin/Records277-4453
Police Investigations277-4455

Fire Department279-3662

Public Works Dept.279-3662

Colby Park Reservations ..279-3662

Building Inspector279-3662

Animal Control279-3662

DECEMBER 2009 & JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	8 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM (City Hall) WH Foundation meeting 8 PM (City Hall)	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	22	23	24 Christmas Holiday -- City Offices Closed --	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day -- City Offices Closed --	2
3	4 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 KWHB Meeting 7 PM (City Hall)	12 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM (City Hall) WH Foundation meeting 8 PM (City Hall)	13	14	15	16
17	18 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	19	20	21	22	23

NEWS BRIEFS

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels service is provided using a sliding fee scale to assure that anyone who truly needs a meal gets a meal, regardless of their ability to pay. This program utilizes paid and volunteer drivers to deliver hot, freshly prepared meals to those who are in need. For more information, please call Wesley Retirement Services at 271-6789.

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.

Metro Home Improvement Program

Metro Home Improvement Program, formerly known as (WestHELP), is a program that helps preserve the existing affordable housing stock in our community. Metro Home Improvement Program assists homeowners in Windsor Heights with housing repairs and correcting code violations. To qualify for assistance from Metro Home Improvement Program, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- The property must be located in Windsor Heights.
- Proof of ownership of the applicant must be provided. The property must be owner-occupied in order to qualify for this program.
- Property taxes and/or mortgage payments must be current and paid-to-date and there cannot be any mechanics liens on the property to be assisted.
- Income limits of the household must fall at or below 80% of the median family income for Polk County.
- The property must be a single family residence.
- The assessed value of the property cannot exceed \$150,000.

Application request forms are at Windsor Heights City Hall, 1133 66th Street. If you have any questions or would like more information about Metro Home Improvement Program, please call Metro Home Improvement at 273-0770.

Winter Maintenance

Salt and sand are two traditional materials used in winter maintenance to combat snow and ice. Salt is used to melt snow and ice while sand is applied to provide traction for cars and pedestrians. When snow and ice melt, the water becomes storm water runoff, which eventually ends up in local water bodies such as lakes and rivers. As the runoff moves over paved surfaces, it collects sand, salt, and other materials and deposits them into surface waters, causing adverse effects on the environment. In addition, salt and sand also have the potential to cause building and infrastructural deterioration. So as winter persists, please keep the above comments in mind and use your salt and sand material only where appropriate and where needed.