

# Winter Weather Reminders

**W**ith winter upon us, the City of Windsor Heights would like to remind residents of the ordinances that pertain to snow and ice. If you have any questions or concerns about the City's snow ordinance, please do not hesitate to call City Hall at 279-3662.

## What about vehicles during the snow?

The City received many comments on the recent citizen survey about the snow ordinance. Many people were unclear when the City's snow ordinance takes effect and therefore did not know when they should have vehicles removed from the street. The code states that it is unlawful to park on any streets during the time of snow falls and within the 24 hours following the end of the any snow fall. Any vehicle parked on the street during a snow fall or within 24 hours after a snow fall faces the possibility of receiving a fine or impoundment. It is important to remember the times when you cannot be parked on the street. The snow ordinance automatically goes into effect when a snow begins to fall and stays in effect for the 24 hours after the snow fall has finished.

## What about my sidewalks during or after it snows?

It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow and ice accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If the property owner does not remove snow and/or ice accumulations within a reasonable time, the City may do so and ultimately assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as property tax. For purposes of enforcement, a reasonable time period is generally 48 hours after the snow or ice accumulations end.

While the City realizes it can be frustrating to finish clearing your driveway and then have the plow come by, the snow removal policy adopted by the City Council indicates that snow placed in driveways by City plows is the responsibility of the property owner to remove. Snow from a private driveway may not be placed on or pushed across a City street.

# Civics Corner: All About Snow Plowing

**Q:** I just cleared my driveway/sidewalk and the snow plow put more snow in it. Is there anything that can be done about this?

Unfortunately, there is no good solution to this problem that would not severely delay snow plowing in Windsor Heights. Public Works clears snow from the major streets first (University Avenue, 73rd Street, then 70th Street). Next, drivers make two passes on every residential street to allow movement of traffic. If Public Works tried to push the snow back to the curb at this time on every street, the last part of the town would not be cleared of any snow for at least 9 hours. This would not allow residents and emergency vehicles access to parts of the town for too long a period of time.

**Q:** Can the City push the snow to the side of the street without sidewalks?

This option simply is not available to the City. If the City were to do this, twice as much snow would be put on one side of the street as the other, causing homeowners with driveways on the other side of the street to work twice as hard to shovel their driveways. Public Works does its best to limit how far snow gets plowed into the front yards and onto sidewalks, but sometimes it simply cannot be avoided, due to how close sidewalks in some areas are to the curb and also due to the amount and type of snow on the ground.

**Q:** Why can't the City raise the plow at a driveway that has obviously been cleared already to avoid putting snow in it?

This question is a common question received during the winter season. Unfortunately, this option is not available to our snow plow operators. The time it would require to lift the snow plow at each driveway would have a negative effect on how clean the streets are in the entire town. In addition, snow would pile up in front of the driveway on the road itself because the snow plow would not have plowed in that area. The primary goal of the snow plow operator is to get the street clean for residents and emergency vehicles as quickly and safely as possible. Any delay in this can have a negative affect on everyone. Also, there is a certain speed necessary to keep the snow moving to the side of the street.

**Q:** Why did I receive a ticket on my car?

It is illegal to park any vehicle on the street during snow removal operations. Vehicles parked on the streets cause problems for snow removal and traffic movement. Tickets will be issued and in some instances, vehicles may be towed if parked too long on the street. It is unlawful to park on any streets during the time of snow falls and within the 24 hours following the end of the any snow.

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

# City of Windsor Heights

A M E R I C A ' S C R O W N C O M M U N I T Y N E W S L E T T E R

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# Colby Park and Community Center Update



**I**n June of 2005, an ad hoc shelter committee was appointed to take a look at Colby Park and the needs of the park. The Committee included representatives from the City Council; the Citizens Capital Planning Committee; the Windsor Heights Chamber; the Windsor Heights Foundation; the Lions Club and Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful.

Each of these organizations not only committed to the planning process, but also made a funding pledge to improve the shelter house, which was the initial focus of the planning project. In January, 2005, the Council contracted with RDG for planning services.

On April 17, 2006, the Council conceptually approved the reconfiguration of Colby Park. In June, 2006, the Council approved a contract with RDG for \$30,000 for master planning and the development of construction documents for the physical reconfiguration of the park. The Council approved a master plan that included the outdoor performance pavilion and the plaza area in July of 2006. Later in August, the Council approved \$100,000 for the playground renovation project. In September, the Council approved \$200,000 for the physical reconfiguration of the park. These funds were matching funds for a \$200,000 grant from Polk County. In Fall, 2006, the parking lot at Colby Park was reconfigured. Polk County contributed \$200,000 towards the \$373,649 construction cost of this project.

In June, 2007, the playground was dedicated. In March, the Council bonded for park improvements. In July, the City Council approved a contract with Elder for \$803,169 to build the performance pavilion, the ball field and the walkways and with RDG for \$42,000 for design services related to these improvements.

In May, 2008, the Council bonded for the Community Center project and approved a contract with Calhoun Burns and Associates for preliminary design for \$30,500. In October, the Council approved a contract for final design for \$170,020. On December 22, 2009, the City Council selected a design for the Community Center. Architects and engineers are currently developing construction and bid documents for the facility. Bid documents should be ready in Spring, 2009 and, pending the outcome of the bids, demolition in Spring, 2009 and construction in full swing by Summer, 2009. Construction costs are projected to be \$1,897,494. Some of the expenditures were highlighted above, but to recap, the City spent a total of \$561,008 on the Colby Park project in FY 07; \$761,008 in FY 08; and \$591,505 to date in the currently fiscal year, that ends June 30, 2009.



City of Windsor Heights  
*the heart of it all*  
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Windsor Heights, IA 50311  
(515) 279-3662  
[www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org)



## Reminders for Pet Owners

This summer, while walking your dog or playing in the park, please remember to be courteous and to follow the City's pet ordinance. Remember, your pet cannot run at large. Further, the pet cannot relieve itself on other people's property without the property owner's consent. You should remember that you are required to pick up and dispose of any pet waste that would otherwise be located on someone else's property or public property. For your convenience, "Pet Mitts" are available in Colby Park and on the trail near College Avenue. The City provides the "Mitts" to make it even easier for pet owners to pick up after their animals. There are other provisions in the pet ordinance regarding habitual barking, howling or yelping. Please remember the provisions of the pet ordinance and be a courteous pet owner.

### Pet Licenses

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 1. Pets must have proof of their current rabies vaccination from their vet, with a minimum of 6 months remaining before expiration.

## Important Reminders for All

- Please **do not** place recycle containers on the sidewalk.
- Please **do not** block side walks while parking in driveways.
- Please **do not** allow tree branches to hang within 8 feet above sidewalks, they must be trimmed back.
- Please **do not** park vehicles on your yard.



### 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

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

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	3	4	5	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
15	16 City Council Meeting 5:15 PM (City Hall)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Community Coffee Club 9-10:30 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Street Lights

We have received many calls regarding burnt out street lights. If you have a light on your street that is out, please call City Hall at 279-3662, and we will contact MidAmerican Energy or you can call direct to 1-800-799-4443.

### Council Agenda

The City of Windsor Heights wants to keep everyone informed and invites you to be a recipient of the City Council Regular Meeting Agendas. It will come to you at no cost via e-mail. If you are interested, please call Josh Heggen at City Hall (279-3662) and give your e-mail address and phone number to the receptionist. We will add your name to the existing list of those who already get a copy of the City Council regular meeting agendas, via e-mail. We hope you will take advantage of this offer to keep informed of your City government.

### 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.



1-800-292-8989

www.iowaonecall.com



### 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.

## Choose Recycling Cart Size

Metro Waste Authority is taking orders now through March for the new rolling recycling carts that will be distributed this spring in Windsor Heights. Each residential household will automatically receive a 96-gallon cart beginning in April with automated pick-up beginning July 1. The 96-gallon cart is recommended because all approved recyclables – including cardboard – will be put in the cart creating a greater volume of materials. In addition, recycling will be collected every other week, instead of weekly collection.

For those who generate less trash, such as persons who live alone, don't fill their garbage container weekly or who, for physical reasons, may have difficulty rolling a larger bin to the curb, 48-gallon carts are available. Requests for the smaller carts must be received by March 30 to be included in initial cart delivery. 96-gallon carts will be delivered to those who do not order by that date.

If you prefer to receive a 48-gallon cart, please visit [www.recycleandroll.com/cart-size](http://www.recycleandroll.com/cart-size) and submit the online request form by March 30. If you don't have Internet access, please call Metro Waste Authority, (515) 323-6514, for more information.



## Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

The Windsor Heights Foundation has named six winners in its annual holiday lighting contest. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to the following winners:

District #1--Herb and Marlys Schulte, 1823 79th St.

District #2--Doug Feldman residence, 7122 Franklin

District #3--David Jenison and Andy McBeth, 6531 Del Matro

*This winner was also named "Best of the Best"*

District #4--Rico Tata residence, 6412 Forest Ct.

District #5--Ed and Nancy Greenman, 7218 Sunset

District #6--Tim Kurth residence, 1006 66th St.

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