

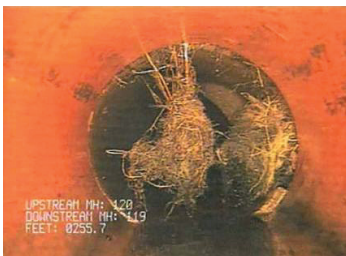
**Help keep our storm sewer and waterways clean!**  
**When mowing your lawn, please do not blow your grass clippings**  
**onto your street, sidewalk or driveway**

## SAVE OUR SEWERS: THE WINDSOR HEIGHTS SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

Windsor Heights has an aging sanitary sewer infrastructure. Because sewer lines are old, they can crack and allow groundwater to infiltrate them. Some residential properties also have foundation drains or sump pumps that tie directly into the sanitary sewer, which means that stormwater and groundwater are introduced directly into the sewer system. These are referred to as inflow and infiltration issues.

The sewer system then becomes inundated with water with every storm of any significance. Many times there is simply more water than the pipes can carry. In the worst cases, a mixture of stormwater and sanitary sewage floods residents’ basements and overwhelms the city’s water treatment facility. Regrettably, sometimes the sewage flows directly into Walnut Creek, which leads to the Raccoon River (the source of our drinking water.) We will all have to work together to bring the infrastructure up to date if we are to prevent more basements from flooding and preserve our clean drinking water. That is why we are introducing a new public-private program we refer to as S.O.S. or “Save Our Sewers.”

Included in this article are two examples of the sewer lines in Windsor Heights. These pictures were taken inside our sewer system in 2011. The first picture shows a sizable crack in the sewer line and the other shows a root ball penetrating into the sewer line.



There are solutions, but even the simplest of them requires city-wide cooperation and a significant investment. The best way forward is to retrofit the system with new pipes inside the old pipes (commonly referred to as sliplining) and to identify and correct any inflow and infiltration from private sources, which includes disconnecting or “decoupling” any sump pumps or foundation drains that are currently connected to the sewer system. City Engineers estimate 40 percent of the “inflow and infiltration” problem stems from the city’s pipes, while the remaining 60 percent of the inflow and infiltration can be attributed to residential properties. Homes and businesses will have to be inspected. In many cases, repairs costing significant amounts of money may have to be made.

This is a problem in many other Iowa cities, as well, and each is handling it differently. Some cities are imposing mandates on residents and forcing them to comply by creating expensive fines. In Windsor Heights, we would like to avoid this approach if possible, although a mandate may be necessary in the future. S.O.S., or “Save Our Sewers,” is an incentive program that we hope will encourage property owners to identify potential “inflow and infiltration” problems on their property and make any repairs they may need to make.

The S.O.S. program began September 1, 2011 and offers partially forgivable loans to property owners who need to make upgrades. The loans are up to 50 percent forgivable, depending on property owners’ income levels. As part of the NFC loan, if the homeowner resides in the home for 5 years, the forgivable portion of the loan will be 100% forgiven at the end of the 5th year. We are excited to be able to offer this to residents, thanks to the partnership and support with Polk County, the Urbandale-Windsor Heights Sanitary Sewer District and the Neighborhood Finance Corporation. However, there is a finite amount of funding available to provide the forgivable portion of the loan. In other words, future funding levels for the S.O.S. program are uncertain so this may be available for a limited time only.

City staff has developed material explaining the issue in further detail, available at [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org) or at city hall. For more details about the S.O.S. financial assistance program, you can call the Neighborhood Finance Corporation at 515-246-0010 or visit [www.neighborhoodfinance.org](http://www.neighborhoodfinance.org). As always, feel free to call City Hall at 515-279-3662 if you have any additional questions.

## OPEN CALL FOR MISS WONDERLAND CONTESTANTS

Have you ever dreamed of being a princess? Or queen? Have you wanted to enter a pageant but did not know how to get started? Are you a pageant girl who loves the thrill of your moment in the spotlight? Miss Wonderland is the pageant for you! On December 1, the City special events committee will hold the first annual Miss Wonderland Pageant. If you have never been in a pageant before or would like to polish your skills, there will also be a pageant primer class offered by a local pageant coach on November 30. Check the website and future newsletters for additional information about age categories, fees, how to enter and more!



## ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION IN COLBY PARK



Oktoberfest is Windsor Heights’ annual fall festival, to be held on Saturday, October 1, from 2 to 6 pm at Colby Park. In the tradition of celebrating the German Oktoberfest with the festivities of Halloween, there will be plenty of good reasons to get out and enjoy the many activities being offered in Colby Park.

Featured will be an award-winning polka band, a strolling accordion player, and a hearty offering of brats and beverages, for sale. You will also be able to stand behind a life size cut-out and have your picture taken out of a scene in Bavaria, the home of Oktoberfest.

This Oktoberfest also invites you and your pet to dress up for costume contests. Come early for pumpkins to be given to the first 50 people to carve, display and take home. Adding to the fun, children may make their own mask, enjoy the inflatable rides, watch balloon animals being made, practice on a hula hoop and watch a yo-yo contest.

In true Windsor Heights style, the Windsor Heights Oktoberfest has something for everyone with a schedule that includes:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Noon – 4:30 pm | Yo-Yo Contest (Registration, 11 am – noon)    |
| 2 – 6 pm       | Interactive Inflatables                       |
| 2 – 6 pm       | Mask Making Workshop                          |
| 2 – 3 pm       | Strolling Accordion                           |
| 2 – 4 pm       | Pumpkin Carving Contest                       |
| 2:30 pm        | Kids Costume Contest                          |
| 3:30 pm        | Pet Costume Contest                           |
| 3 – 6 pm       | Chili Feed benefits the WH Police Association |
| 3:30 – 5:30 pm | Balloon Animals                               |
| 4 – 6 pm       | Polka band                                    |
| 4 – 6 pm       | Hula Hoops                                    |
| All day        | Bavarian photo opportunity                    |

## EMERALD ASH BORER

Have an ash tree in your yard or just curious about the Emerald Ash Borer and why it may affect your trees in the future? Please join Emma Bruemmer, the State Urban Forester with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Robin Pruisner, the State Entomologist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture for a public presentation and question and answer period in the Community and Events Center at Colby Park on Monday, September 26 at 6 pm. This is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

## SELF-DEFENSE COURSE OFFERED FOR WOMEN

The Windsor Heights Police Department is currently gathering contact information for area residents who may be interested in participating in a women’s education and self defense course called Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.). Dates of the course have tentatively been set for four consecutive Thursday evenings in October (6, 13, 20, 27 from 6:00 - 9:30 pm) at the Windsor Heights Community and Event Center. Class size will be limited to twenty students and attendance at all classes is recommended to complete the program successfully. There will be a one-time registration fee of \$25 due prior to the first class along with pre-event paperwork and waivers. Returning students are welcome at no charge.

Interested women, high school age and above, may contact Chief McDaniel at the Windsor Heights Police Department during normal business hours at (515) 277-4453 or e-mail him at [dmcdaniel@windsorheights.org](mailto:dmcdaniel@windsorheights.org) with questions. Registration for the course will begin Tuesday, September 6 at City Hall, 1133 66th Street. Visit [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org) for more information.

## 2011 MOVIES IN THE PARK DECLARED HUGE SUCCESS; SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS

Most Friday evenings in the summer found Colby Park filled with people on blankets, in lawn chairs, filling benches and picnic tables, all out to enjoy the beautiful surroundings while watching movies. That is right; nearly 1,000 people came to watch the popular series, best known as “Movies in the Park.” From the animated adventure of *Shrek Forever After* to the dramatic biographic *The Blind Side*, it is no wonder that this summer-long series is so popular.

Special thanks to sponsors Sam’s Club and Walmart, not only for their huge generosity but for recognizing how important it is to have fun, family-friendly activities in our community park. The next time you see them, please tell their employees how much you appreciate their support.