

Winter Safety Tips

Water That Tree

What's a holiday party or even the traditional Christmas morning scene itself without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household, as those of more than 33 million other American homes, includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion: "Keep the tree watered." That's good advice and not just to create a fragrant indoor winter wonderland atmosphere. Christmas trees account for 250 fires annually, resulting in 14 deaths, 26 injuries and more than \$13.8 million in property damage. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. Remember, a wet tree is a safe tree!

Chimney Fires

As you snuggle in front of a cozy fire or bask in the warmth of your wood stove, you are taking part in a ritual of comfort and enjoyment handed down through the centuries. The last thing you are likely to be thinking about is the condition of your chimney. However, if you don't give some thought to it before you light those winter fires; your enjoyment may be very short-lived. Why? Dirty chimneys can cause chimney fires, which damage structures, destroy homes and injure or kill people. Chimney fires don't have to happen. Here are some ways to avoid them:

- Use seasoned woods only (dryness is more important than hard wood versus soft wood considerations)
- Build smaller, hotter fires that burn more completely and produce less smoke
- Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, trash or Christmas trees; these can spark a chimney fire
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures where wood stoves are in use, so you can adjust burning practices as needed
- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned on a regular basis. Clean chimneys don't catch fire. Make sure a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep inspects your solid fuel venting system annually, and cleans and repairs it whenever needed. Your sweep may have other maintenance recommendations depending on how you use your fireplace or stove. CSIA recommends that you call on certified chimney sweeps, since they are regularly tested on their understanding of the complexities of chimney and venting systems.

Windsor Heights Business Receives 2014 EXPLOR Award

Quester, a national marketing research company headquartered in Windsor Heights was announced as the winner of the EXPLOR Award, one of the industry's most distinguished and respected honors at The Market Research Event in Boca Raton, Florida. Tim Hoskins, President of Quester and Andrea Joss, Vice President of Research were joined by their client to accept the award. Joss is one of the top 20 market researchers in the country and is responsible for the oversight and execution of Quester's strategic research vision of becoming a world-class research organization committed to learning and client satisfaction.

The EXPLOR Award is an annual case study competition honoring innovation in marketing research. Innovation leaders from global corporations, research agencies and academia submit high-impact case studies where technology or new methods have advanced the research and insights process.

Quester specializes in conversation. Integrating close-ended questions and moderated, open-ended questions into every study, every design, and for every person, Quester exposes nuances in research missed through traditional methods.

More information at www.windsorheights.org

City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Winter Weather Reminders

With 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 are the rules regarding parking a vehicle on the street during the winter? City code states that it is unlawful to park on any street during the time of any snowfall and within the 24 hours following the end of the any snow event (60.10.10). Any vehicle parked on the street during a snowfall or within 24 hours after a snowfall faces the possibility of receiving a \$25 parking ticket and/or impoundment. It is important to remember the times when you cannot be parked on the street and that the snow ordinance automatically goes into effect when snow begins to accumulate. This allows for timely removal of snow from the streets and is needed to maintain the safety of our main thoroughfares to get emergency response apparatus to residential areas expeditiously.

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.

Vacation House Watch

The Windsor Heights Police Department is a full service Police Department that recognizes its most valuable assets are a close relationship with the community and the members of the Department. To provide the best possible service, the Department has made it as convenient as possible to request vacation house checks on your home.

REMINDERS:

- To sign up to have your home checked while on vacation, visit www.windsorheights.org.
- Please submit the form at least one week before you leave. This allows our staff to distribute the information to the Police Officers on patrol.
- Complete all fields in the form as completely as possible.
- Always include emergency contact information.



City of Windsor Heights
the heart of it all

1145 66th Street, Suite 1
Windsor Heights, IA 50324
(515) 279-3662
www.windsorheights.org

Annual Holiday Lighting Contest



The Windsor Heights Foundation is pleased to announce the annual holiday lighting contest. The Foundation has divided the city into six zones, and will 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 contest winners will receive a lighted sign to place in their yard. The Foundation also appreciates the businesses that decorate for the holidays.

Judging will take place between 6:30 and 9 p.m. from December 3-10, 2014. The Foundation is asking residents to have their decorations 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

CONTACT US! City of Windsor Heights

Emergency Phone Numbers

Fire Department911
Police Department911

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers

Police/Fire286-3632
City Hall279-3662

MayorDiana Willits

Council Members:

Steve Peterson
Charlene Butz
Betty Glover
Dave Burgess
Tony Timm

City AdministratorBrett Klein

Accounting ClerkMarcia Woodke

Fire ChiefChristopher Cross

Police ChiefDennis McDaniel

Public Works Director Jason Van Ausdall

Police Department:

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

Fire Department279-3662

Public Works Dept.279-3662

Colby Park Reservations645-6821

Building Inspector279-3662

Animal Control286-3632

City Council Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month at 6:00 p.m., unless posted otherwise.

DECEMBER 2014 & JANUARY 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. (Council Chambers)	2	3	4	5	6 Windsor Wonderland
7	8 Mayor & Administrator 10/60 Meeting 5:15 p.m. (Community & Events Center)	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. (Council Chambers)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas City Hall closed	26 City Hall closed	27
28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day City Hall closed	2	3
4	5 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. (Council Chambers)	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Mayor & Administrator 10/60 Meeting 5:15 p.m. (Community & Events Center)	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. (Council Chambers)	20	21	22	23	24

NEWS BRIEFS

Windsor Heights Names New City Administrator

Please help us welcome our new City Administrator Brett Klein. If you would like to learn more about him, please visit the City's website at www.windsorheights.org to view the official press release.

Windsor Wonderland

Windsor Wonderland will be Saturday, December 6, from 2:00-6:00 pm at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center, located in Colby Park. The cost is \$3.00 per person and includes activities, hot dog, hot chocolate and viewing of three Holiday classics: Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, and A Charlie Brown Christmas! Children 2 and under are free. Visit www.windsorheights.org for more information or contact Tina Campbell at 645-6821.

Mayor & City Administrator 10/60 Meeting Schedule Change

The Mayor & Administrator will continue hosting regular monthly 10/60 community meetings for Windsor Heights residents. The meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month from 5:15-6:15 pm at the Windsor Heights Community and Events Center. Residents are encouraged to attend. They will have 60 minutes to ask their Mayor and Administrator any 10 questions they want. The next 10/60 meeting is Monday, December 8, at 5:15 pm.

Christmas Tree and Winter Yard Waste Collection

The holidays often include bringing in the new and disposing of the old. As you're shuffling things around, make sure to get your Christmas tree to the curb in time for collection.

Christmas trees, just like yard waste, are collected from the curb and recycled into compost. Trees are picked-up on your regular garbage day between December 29 and January 9, and they must have a Compost It! sticker attached. Stickers are sold at participating grocery and hardware stores for \$1.20. Please remove all decorations. Wreaths and garland are not accepted.

This is also the last chance to have any remaining yard debris collected before spring. Be sure to use your Compost It! yard waste cart, Compost It! bags, or attach Compost It! stickers to generic bags to ensure your yard waste is picked up.

For more information about yard waste collection, visit Metro Waste Authority at www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call 244-0021.

Help Keep Winter Salt and Sand Out of Walnut Creek

At your home, you can prevent pollution to the river and backwaters by limiting the amount of salt and deicers you use on your driveways and sidewalks. Did you know one teaspoon of salt can contaminate five gallons of water? As a rule of thumb, if there is a layer of salt remaining on your driveway after the ice melts, you used too much salt. If you do have excess sand or salt, sweep it up and throw it away so that it is not washed into the storm sewer. The earlier you shovel after a snowfall, the less likely you are to need salt. Consider using an anti-icing agent before it snows as it will prevent the snow from bonding with the pavement.

2015 Pet License Registration

The time to register your pets for 2015 is coming up. All pet owners must register their animals January 1st through March 31st. Even if renewing, please bring a copy of your pet's current rabies certificate or bring a copy of your 2014 pet license. The fee for fixed animals is \$10 and un-fixed is \$20. Pet Licenses are available at the Windsor Heights Public Safety Building located at 1133 66th Street. The 2015 Pet License Application is available on the Windsor Heights website at www.windsorheights.org. If you have any questions, please call the Police Department at 277-4453. **Reminder to pet owners:** Even if registered, pets are never permitted to run at large in the city and must be on a leash or confined at all times. All pet ordinances are in Chapter 55.

DART News

Ride for a Reason: 'Tis the Season for Giving DART invites residents to ride for a reason and share in the spirit of the holiday season. DART will donate all cash fares collected from Local, Express, Flex and On Call services on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014, to the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network.

No DART Service on Christmas Day: DART will not operate bus service on Thursday, December 25, in observation of Christmas Day. On Wednesday, December 24, DART service will run modified weekday service, ending two hours early, in observation of Christmas Eve. The last trips will depart DART Central Station at 8:40 p.m. Additionally, on Friday, December 26, DART will operate on its Saturday schedule. Hours for the customer service window and schedule information phones will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and administrative offices are closed. Regular service and office hours will resume on Saturday, December 27. DART reminds riders to plan their trips accordingly.