

Preventing Frozen Pipes

Continued from page 1

If every faucet in the house is frozen, you are probably dealing with a frozen main water line that supplies water to the house. Turn on all faucets in the sinks and bathtub and turn off the main water supply. Follow the suggestions above but apply the heat directly to the pipe that enters the house.

Never use a heat source with an open flame, such as a blowtorch or propane heater, to thaw a frozen water line as an open flame in a home can present a serious fire hazard as well as the possibility of exposure to carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, excessive heat from a blowtorch applied to a frozen pipe can cause the water inside the pipe to boil and possibly explode.

If your pipes have frozen once, chances are they will freeze again. Before the onset of cold weather, prevent freezing of your water supply lines and pipes by following these recommendations:

- Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines following manufacturer's or installer's directions.
- Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without cause the pipe to break.
- Wrap outside water pipes or water pipes located under the house or crawl spaces with an insulation material such as newspaper or electric heat tape taking special care to cover all elbow joints, valve bodies, tees and any other fittings.
- If you are going on vacation during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

Winter Stormwater Tips

The cold and snowy winter is already upon us and it's still important to consider stormwater pollution.

Pollutants such as soaps, fertilizers, automotive fluids, and pet waste can collect in the snow pack, accumulating until a thaw suddenly dumps them into the storm water system. Contaminants that end up in the storm drains are carried off, untreated, to streams and larger bodies of water that are used for drinking, swimming, or fishing. Here are a few helpful habits to reduce the amount of harmful pollutants entering storm drains this winter season:

- **Winterizing vehicles:** Check that your car is not leaking oil or other fluids. It takes only a small amount of motor oil to pollute thousands of gallons of water. Also, dispose of drained fluids properly. Visit www.mwatoday.com or call 515.244.0021 to learn how to dispose of household hazardous waste. Please do not dump these items down the storm drains.
- **Washing vehicles:** On a warm winter day, you may be tempted to break out the hose and bucket to get some of the road grime off of your car. Take a moment to see where that runoff is going. Does it wash down the driveway and into the storm drain? If so, all that salt and dirt will enter a stream or pond. Using a car wash facility may cost a few dollars more, but the water will be treated before being released into the watershed.
- **De-icing driveways and sidewalks:** While it may be habit to stock up on salt for the winter, many people would not consider dumping a bucket of salt on their lawn in the summer. But the results are similar. Salt runs off of your sidewalk and onto the surrounding soil. Consider more environmentally-friendly deicing products found at most auto parts and home improvement stores.

City of Windsor Heights

Visit www.windsorheights.org for more city news!

THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Holiday Lights Contest Winners
- 3 News Briefs
- 4 Winter Stormwater Tips

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Preventing Frozen Pipes

Winter weather brings the threat of frozen pipes. If your power goes out due to downed power lines, there is no need to immediately worry. In most cases, a home will retain enough heat for three to five hours. It may get cold; however, as long as the temperature remains above 55°F in your home, the pipes should not freeze.

If power is not expected to be restored within five hours, to prevent your pipes from freezing:

- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Let cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe – even at a trickle – helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing.

If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. To safely and effectively thaw frozen water pipes, you must first diagnose where the pipe is frozen.

- Start by turning on every faucet in the house, including the bathtub faucets. This will help you determine the area of the blockage. If the water in the kitchen sink is frozen but the water in the bathroom sink works, then you are probably dealing with an isolated problem. Once you have figured out which faucet contains the frozen line, turn off all other faucets.
- Locate the main water shut-off valve, which could be located in the basement. It is important to shut off the water prior to thawing the pipes as a pipe may already have broken under the extreme pressure caused by the frozen line.
- Now that the water is turned off, you have a few options to thaw the pipe. One is to use towels soaked in hot water. Wrap the frozen pipe with hot, wet towels and pour on additional hot water until the pipe has completely thawed. If the hot towel approach won't work, a hair dryer or heat gun may be the next solution. Turn on the dryer or heat gun and work up and down the length of the frozen line. Once the water starts to thaw and trickle out of the faucet, if you are sure the blockage hasn't caused a broken pip, you can turn the main water supply back on. Keep working with the heat source and keep the water faucet turned on until full water pressure is restored.



City of
Windsor Heights
the heart of it all

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

Continued on page 4.

Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

The Windsor Heights Foundation has selected the winners of 2014 Holiday Lighting Contest. The Foundation divided the city into six districts and selected the best display in each district. The Foundation members awarded a \$50 prize to each district winner, and an additional \$50 to the "Best of the Best" from among the district winners. The 2014 winners are:

District 1:	Jim and Carol Langeness 7609 Marilyn Drive	District 2:	Dean and Sara Boots 7044 Wilshire
District 3:	Christina Wadle 6401 Washington	District 4:	Melanie Mann 1308 64th
District 5:	Ryan and Mollie Mertens 6803 Forest Ct.	District 6:	Michael Diehl and Margaret Brekke 1034 66th
Best of the Best:	Jim and Carol Langeness 7609 Marilyn Drive		

The Windsor Heights Foundation also gave the contest winners a lighted recognition sign to place in their yard. The Windsor Heights Foundation members extend their appreciation to all the residents who decorated their homes for the holidays.

City of Windsor Heights

www.windsorheights.org

Emergency Phone Numbers

Fire Department 911
Police Department 911

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers

Police/Fire 286-3632
City Hall 279-3662

Mayor Diana Willits
Council Members Steve Peterson
Charlene Butz
Betty Glover
Dave Burgess
Tony Timm

City Administrator Brett Klein
Accounting Clerk Marcia Woodke
Fire Chief Christopher Cross
Police Chief Dennis McDaniel
Public Works Director Jason Van Ausdall

Police Department
Police Dispatch 286-3632
Police Admin./Records 277-4453
Police Investigations 277-4455

Fire Department 279-3662

Public Works Department 279-3662
Colby Park Reservations 645-6821
Building Inspector 279-3662
Animal Control 286-3632

2

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

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. (Council Chambers)	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 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
25	26	27	28 Planning & Zoning Meeting 4:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)	29	30	31
1	2 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. (Council Chambers)	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 10/60 Meeting 5:15 p.m. (Community & Events Center)	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. (Council Chambers)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Sustainable Series (Community & Events Center)	25 Planning & Zoning Meeting 4:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)	26	27	28

NEWS BRIEFS

Sustainable Series Returns in 2015

The Sustainable Series will be back again this year at the Community and Events Center in Windsor Heights. We have selected dates for the series with a time to be determined at a later date. The goal of the series is to provide homeowners information on efforts on becoming a greener community. Look for more information towards the end of January and mark your calendars now for the following dates:

- Tuesday, February 24
- Tuesday, March 24
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 26

Vacation House Watch

Are you leaving town for the Holidays or have a vacation coming up? 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. Forms are available at www.windsorheights.org or the Police Department located at 1133 66th Street. Please submit the form at least one week before leaving and complete all fields in the form. Remember to include emergency contact information as well.

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.

Mayor and City Administrator 10/60 Meetings

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 5:15-6:15pm 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.

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.

3