

Crime Prevention 101

In a metropolitan area such as ours, crime knows no boundaries. Typically no one crime will be unique to any one city in the Des Moines area.

The City of Windsor Heights has the reputation for being a safe community with excellent public services, and public safety within it is a partnership between the Police and its citizenry. This City takes pride in these services and wants to do everything possible to make our community safe. As warmer weather arrives, typically we will see an increase in certain crimes.

Any crime committed against a citizen is of great concern to the law enforcement community, but the most alarming and potentially devastating crimes committed are those that occur at the places we reside. Most summers, the Des Moines metropolitan community sees an increase in car burglaries, residential burglaries, vandalism, and motor vehicle thefts; often times these crimes occur during daylight hours and require the vigilance of alert neighbors to assist the police in catching the suspects.

In Windsor Heights, the police department does an excellent job with proactive policing efforts, but no community can be immune from every illegal activity. As we head into the warmer months, the Windsor Heights Police would like to remind you of a few safety tips to keep your family and your belongings a little more secure:

- Get to know your neighbors and become familiar with each other's routines.
- Make sure someone is watching your property when you are going to be gone for any extended time period (the police department has a vacation watch program as well – go to www.windsorheights.org).
- Secure your property by:
 - Locking exterior doors and windows when unattended
 - Close and secure your garage door
 - Lock the walk-thru door that separates the attached garage from your residence
 - Utilize or add outdoor lighting
 - Use indoor lighting timers and security systems
 - Trim bushes around doors and windows to minimize concealment opportunity

- Do not leave property inside your vehicles (i.e. purses, wallets, money, keys).
 - Remove satellite radios, stereos, and held-held electronics/computers from vehicles
 - Lock your vehicles, even if they are in the garage if there are valuables inside
 - If you leave your vehicle in the driveway remove your garage door opener from the vehicle

What can be done to help the police if you ever become a victim?

- Keep a record of your property to include:
 - Make, model, and serial number
 - Utilize a photo log or video log to show what you have
 - Items of value without such nomenclature should be photographed
 - If possible, add your own identifiable markings
 - Keep property records and valuables in a safe place such as a bank safety deposit box
 - Update your records on periodic regular basis

- Keep a good record of those who perform labor at your residence (not just the company but the employees that do the work, associated license plate numbers, etc.)
- Report suspicious activity to the police as it occurs. If you are not sure, report it and let the police make the determination regarding the activity.

The Windsor Heights Police Department works tirelessly to provide you with superior coverage 24 hours a day. Your assistance in maintaining a vigilant watch over our community is a helpful effort in that partnership.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like additional information on the services provided by the police department, please call our Traffic & Community Safety Coordinator, Officer Amanda Woods, at (515) 277-4453. In the event of an emergency call 911. Lastly, go to www.Nixle.com to sign up for electronic/text messaging alerts from the police department. You can also follow us on Twitter at @whpolice or like us on Facebook at "WHgtsPolice."

Movies in the Park Series Announced

The 2013 Movies in Colby Park schedule is a terrific line-up. Start your planning now by reserving these Friday evening dates. The movies are shown at dusk with a pre-activity beginning at 7:00 pm.

June 21	The Lorax, 2012
June 28	101 Dalmatians, 1996
July 12	Rise of the Guardians, 2012
July 19	Dolphin Tale, 2012
July 26	Up, 2009
August 2	The Avengers, 2012



More information at www.windsorheights.org

City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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City to Provide Rain Barrels to Residents

Rainwater is often treated like wastewater in our communities. Our rooftops and yards are designed to shed rainwater runoff to the street, down the storm drain, and into receiving streams, rather than absorbing and infiltrating it. Then, we use drinking water to water our lawns and gardens. Rainwater harvesting is a way to capture rainwater for such uses and conserve treated drinking water. The simple way to start harvesting rainwater is to install a rain barrel. Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from rooftops for watering lawns and gardens.

The City, together with the Walnut Creek Watershed Coalition, will be piloting a rain barrel program to provide rain barrels to Windsor Heights' residents at a discounted price of \$50 each. This program was made possible with the help from a Metro Waste Authority grant. Also, big thanks to Windsor Heights' own resident, Darren Fife for his time and effort in constructing the barrels and getting this program started. There are approximately 37 rain barrels at this time, so the barrels will be sold on a first come, first serve basis until more are made available; residents can be put on a waiting list. Residents are limited to one per household at this time and they will be delivered by City volunteers.

You may contact Sheena Danzer, City Inspector at (515) 645-6826 to purchase a rain barrel or if there are any questions. The City of Windsor Heights is very excited to be offering this program to its residents in hopes of creating a greater awareness of water conservation.



Annual Spring Cleanup

Please join the Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful Committee on Saturday, April 20, for our Annual Spring Cleanup Day. We are blessed to live in a beautiful community and a couple of hours of work on a Saturday morning can let us put the best of our city on display heading into spring and summer. The more hands we have the lighter the work for each one of us, so the more the merrier. Bring along neighbors, friends, groups or anyone who cares about our city and making a difference in the community.

Our home base will be in a white tent just north of Burger King on 73rd Street and we'll be working from 8:30 to 10:30 am. We'll provide gloves and a refuse bag and will give you an area to police. Please join us and spread the word to all.

Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful is an offshoot of Keep Iowa Beautiful and its mission is to engage citizens, businesses and governments in Windsor Heights to take greater responsibility for beautifying and improving the community we all love.



City of
Windsor Heights
the heart of it all
1133 66th Street
Windsor Heights, IA 50324
(515) 279-3662
www.windsorheights.org

Sustainable Living Series

Last year, the City of Windsor Heights hosted the first ever Sustainable Living Spring educational series at the Community and Events Center in Windsor Heights' Colby Park. Due to its success, the City has put together a 2013 Program with the help of a Metro Waste Authority Grant. These educational presentations will be free of charge to attend and will cover a wide variety of topics. Please RSVP your attendance to Sheena Danzer at sdanzer@windsorheights.org.

- Thursday, April 18, 5:30-7:00: *Darren Fife*, a resident of Windsor Heights and member of the Walnut Creek Watershed Coalition, will show other residents how simple it can be to create your own rain barrel. A rain barrel program will be discussed for Windsor Heights residents which was made possible through a grant received by Metro Waste Authority.

- Thursday, May 16, 5:30-7:00: *Metro Waste Authority* will educate residents on disposal of yard waste, recyclables and hazardous waste. Metro Waste Authority partners with the City of Windsor Heights to provide safe, smart disposal options for residents. A fun, interactive game will be used during the presentation.
- Thursday, June 20, 5:30-7:00: *MidAmerican Energy* presents a conservation class educating citizens on incentives and rebates available through MidAmerican Energy for increasing the energy efficiency of a person's home. MidAmerican Energy offers free energy audits to residents with up to 12 CFL light bulb replacements. Residents can sign up for an energy audit at the time of the event. MidAmerican to provide free giveaways!

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
Charlene Butz
Betty Glover
Dave Jenison
Dave Burgess

City AdministratorJeff Fiegenschuh

Chief Financial Officer.....Carrie Kruse

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 Reservations279-3662

Building Inspector279-3662

Animal Control279-3662

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

APRIL & MAY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	16	17	18 Sustainable Living Series 5 pm (Community Center)	19	20 Spring Cleanup 8:30 am (Burger King)
21	22	23	24 Planning & Zoning Meeting 4:30 pm (City Hall)	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Sustainable Living Series 5 pm (Community Center)	17	18 WHAMM & Pancake Breakfast
19	20 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	21	22 Planning & Zoning Meeting 4:30 pm (City Hall)	23	24	25

NEWS BRIEFS

WHAMM Run/Walk

Windsor Heights Mini Marathon, better known by its acronym WHAMM, is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, at 8:00 am. Runners and walkers are invited to participate and may choose either the 5K (single loop) or 10K (double loop) route. This course, through the lovely city neighborhoods, is known as both challenging and rewarding. All proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Central Iowa. Individuals as well as teams are encouraged to raise pledges to support the MDA's summer Camp.

Registration for WHAMM is open at www.getmeregistered.com. Awards are given and each participant receives a t-shirt.

The ever popular Pancake Breakfast begins the same morning, presented by the Windsor Heights Fire Department and tops out the fun.

July 4th Parade

Strike up the band; get your marching shoes in order. The City of Windsor Heights' annual Fourth of July parade is scheduled to kick off at 1:00 pm, on Independence Day. The Special Events Committee, organizer of the day's festivities, encourages the public to get involved by making a float, decorating a car, or marching. Some ideas of what they are looking for include:

Antique autos and street rods, drills teams, drum squads floats, marching bands, flag displays, youth and adult marchers, new and vintage farm equipment, horses and other farm animals.

The parade, which attracts crowds of spectators from local and surrounding communities, not only is an excellent marketing opportunity but also a creative way to bring attention to what businesses and organizations are about.

For parade information, contact tlevine@windsorheights.org.

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. Before any digging or excavation starts, call Iowa One Call at 1-800-292-8989 to have utilities marked.



Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries.

SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE GRILLS

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

GRILL FACTS

- July is the peak month for grill fires
- More than half of home grill structure fires begin on either a courtyard terrace or patio, or an exterior balcony or open porch
- Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.