

# Preventing Frozen Pipes

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- 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.

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 monox-

ide 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.

## Musical Broadway Review

Come enjoy the talents of 20 high school singers when they present an evening of Broadway hits from classics (Camelot, Annie Get Your Gun) to contemporary (Wicked, Les Miserables) in full costume on Friday, January 18, 6:30 pm at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center, 6900 School Street, Windsor Heights. Pianist Ann Hargens will put her fingers to work accompanying the students, including Windsor Heights resident Emily Condon.

Participating students are from the voice studio of Gloria Olson, Windsor Heights resident and Chamber member. Gloria brings 25 years of teaching and singing experience to her studio most recently including teaching opera in Viterbo, Italy.

This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required.

## Mind, Body, Spirit Workout

Nia, an exercise technique that incorporates dance and the martial arts into a workout, is being offered at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center, 6900 School Street, Windsor Heights, on Sunday, January 13, 4:30-6:00 pm. Charged with power, grace and body-mind conditioning, this Nia Jam is free and open to anyone interested in holistic fitness, health, and well being.

Nia teacher Moira Leu, will lead the Jam. "It is a unique form of exercise and one that has to be experienced to be appreciated," says Moira, a licensed Blue Belt teacher. Developed nearly 30 years ago, today Nia is taught to approximately 100,000 students by over 2,000 certified teachers in 40 countries.

The Nia Jam is open to all levels; no experience is required. For more information and to register, contact Moira Leu at moiraleu@hotmail.com or 515-210-9928 or visit Nia Des Moines on Facebook.



More information at [www.windsorheights.org](http://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.

## Winter Stormwater Tips

As winter approaches and rain turns to snow, it is 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. Many service stations will collect used motor oil and recycle it.
- **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.



City of Windsor Heights  
the heart of it all

1133 66th Street  
Windsor Heights, IA 50324  
(515) 279-3662  
[www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org)

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 3

# 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 degrees 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

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## 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  
Charlene Butz  
Betty Glover  
Dave Jenison  
Dave Burgess

Interim City Administrator . . .Carl Metzger

Chief Financial Officer. . . .Carrie Kruse

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 Dept. ....279-3662

Colby Park Reservations . . . .279-3662

Building Inspector . . . . .279-3662

Animal Control . . . . .279-3662

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

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		City Hall Closed				
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)					
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
	City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)					WH Chamber Legislative Coffee 9 am (3E)
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
	City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)					
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
	City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)					

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Emergency Access

When recovering from a major snowfall, it's easy to forget emergency responders not only need access to your front door, but to the equipment that will help save your home in the event of an emergency. The Windsor Heights Fire Department is recommending citizens clear a three foot perimeter around fire hydrants that are covered with snow. It's also smart to shovel an access path to the road, so fire fighters can easily thread a water hose to the hydrant from the street.

In general, for every minute a home fire goes un-suppressed or undetected, it doubles in size. Every second counts. If a fire occurs in your home or in your neighborhood, you don't want firefighters wasting those seconds shoveling snow to gain access to the fire hydrant.

### 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.

### At Your Service

Residents experiencing slow drains and/or sewer back ups are encouraged to call the Public Works department at 279-3662.. 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.

## Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

The Windsor Heights Foundation is pleased to announce the 2012 holiday lighting winners:

District 1: Brandon and Sarah Haines, 1910 78<sup>th</sup> St.  
District 2: Michael and Marta Clark, 7222 Washington Ave.  
District 3: Tyler and Carrie Kruse, 6423 Northwest Drive.  
District 4: Joseph and Kristen Mahoney, 6718 Elmcrest Drive  
District 5: Barbara Stetzel, 7141 Forest Drive  
District 6: Michael Diehl and Margaret Brekke-Diehl, 1034 66<sup>th</sup> St.

Tyler and Carrie Kruse's lighting in District 3 was named "Best of the Best." District winners receive a \$50 prize and the best of the best an additional \$50.

The Windsor Heights Foundation Board also gives special recognition to the extensive daytime and night-time decorations done by past winners Fred and Peggy Frye, the "gingerbread house" at 1233 70<sup>th</sup>.

Special mention is made, also, of the lighting done by most of the residents of Elmcrest Drive between 66<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Noting that Windsor Heights seems more "lit up" than usual this year, the Foundation Board of Directors thanks all those who made special effort to decorate their homes, and urges people to take time to tour the city and see the beautiful and creative displays.

## 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](http://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.