

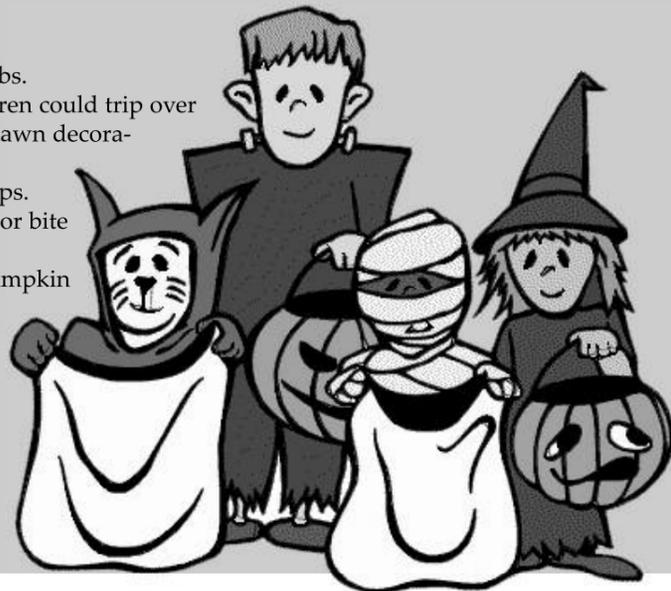
Beggars' Night Tips

Safety Tips for Kids

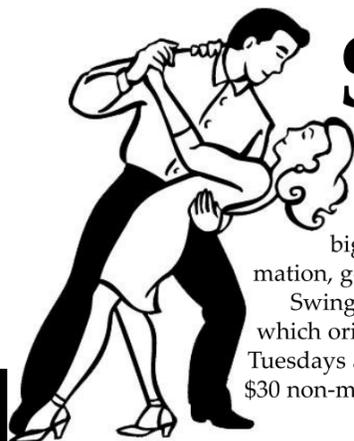
- Carry a flashlight.
- Only approach houses that are lit.
- Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
- Stay on sidewalks or close to the curb. Don't run or cut across yards and driveways, cross intersections at crosswalks and obey all traffic signals.
- Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.
- Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground and wear appropriate shoes that fit (even if they don't go with your costume).
- Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house. Make sure holes are big enough in any mask to see and breathe well. Consider wearing Halloween make-up instead.
- Dress warmly, make any costumes with fire retardant clothing and reflective materials or tape in the costume.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or other flexible materials.

Safety Tips for Homeowners

- Check outdoor lighting and replace burned-out bulbs.
- Remove anything from the porch or yard that children could trip over such as ladders, garden hoses, toys, flower pots or lawn decorations.
- Wet leaves should be swept from sidewalks and steps.
- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater.
- If you use lit candles inside pumpkins, place the pumpkin well away from where children will be walking or standing.
- Consider purchasing non-food treats to hand out, such as coloring books or pens and pencils.
- If you must leave in a vehicle or are just returning home, watch for children darting out from between cars.
- Pay close attention for children dressed in dark clothing or walking on roadways or curbs.



A Swingin' Good Time



Swing Des Moines, the organization that boasts being "the area's expert on swing dance," invites the public to their "Jive Junction" on Friday, October 14, at the Windsor Heights Community and Events Center. A free, with admission, (price is \$5.00 – Swing DSM members are charged \$3.00) introductory dance lesson at 8:00 pm is offered, with music beginning at 8:30 and going until 11:00 pm.

The dance is truly for all ages and a partner is not needed to participate. The music is DJ'd by members of Swing Des Moines and they play a variety of styles – big band, rock and roll and even some other music thrown in for fun. For more information, go to www.swingdesmoines.com.

Swing Des Moines also offers lessons on the "grandfather" of swing dances, the Lindy I, which originated in the 1930's. Come have fun dancin' the night away. Lessons are on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, October 4-25 at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center. Fee is \$30 non-members/\$15 members.

More information at www.windsorheights.org

City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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S.O.S.: Save our Sewers

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."

There are solutions, but even the simplest of them requires citywide 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 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. As always, feel free to call City Hall at 279-3662.



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

City Council Election

City council election is on Tuesday, November 8. Windsor Heights has three voting districts designated as WH1, WH2, and WH3. WH1 residents vote at the Windsor Lutheran Church, 1240 66th Street. WH2 residents vote at City Hall, 1133 66th Street. WH3 residents vote at the Walnut Creek Community Church, 900 64th Street. Election time is a popular time for temporary and civic signs. Many people choose to participate in the process by showing their support through such a sign.

Temporary signs for non-profit civic campaigns or events are permitted in any zoning district. Please note, however, the maximum size sign is 10 square feet when located in a residential district. When placing the sign in your yard, choose a place that will not obstruct the clear view of vehicles and pedestrians. The signs may not be placed in the City's right-of-way. If you have any questions or need information on how to register or where to vote, please call City Hall at 279-3662.

The Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce will host a Windsor Heights City Council Candidate Forum. The event will be held at the Community and Events Center at Colby Park, Monday, October 24th from 6-8pm. This year there are two seats up for election. The Chamber will follow a simple question and answer format, to allow as much citizen involvement as possible. Citizens can ask a question of either a specific candidate or all candidates; they will each have a set time to respond. For additional questions please email; windsorheightschamber@live.com or contact Barb Niccum, Windsor Heights Chamber Executive Director, at 279-3662.

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:

Charlene Butz
Betty Glover
Dave Jenison
Steve Peterson
Diana Willits

City Admin.Marketa George Oliver

Chief Financial Off.Carrie Kruse

Fire ChiefChristopher Cross

Police ChiefDennis McDaniel

Public Works Director Jason Van Ausdall

Director of Comm. Svcs. Josh Heggen

Police Department:

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

Fire Department279-3662

Public Works Dept.279-3662

Colby Park Reservations ..279-3662

Building Inspector279-3662

Animal Control279-3662

2 City Council Meetings - 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month, unless posted otherwise.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 City Council Meeting 6 PM (City Hall)	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM	12	13	14	15
16	17 City Council Meeting 6 PM (City Hall)	18	19	20	21	22 Community Coffee Club 9 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
23 Lions Club Chili Supper 5-7 PM (HyVee)	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Beggars' Night 6-8 PM	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Citizen of the Year Reception 5 PM City Council Meeting 6 PM (Community Center)	8 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 City Council Meeting CANCELLED	22	23	24 City Hall Closed	25 City Hall Closed	26

NEWS BRIEFS

Annual Lions Club Chili Supper

The annual Lions Club Chili Supper is set for Sunday, October 23 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at your local Windsor Heights Hy-Vee. Proceeds raised from this event help fund charitable and community events during the upcoming year. Watch for a local Lions Club member coming to your door over the next few weeks selling tickets. They will also be available at Hy-Vee during the dinner. Lions Club members will also be passing out a 10% off coupon for food purchases at the Windsor Heights Hy-Vee (see coupon for details). Support local charities and your community by buying chili supper tickets!

Beggar's Night

Ghosts and goblins will be in the neighborhood for trick-or-treating on Sunday, October 30, from 6:00- 8:00 pm. Turn on your porch light if you would like to host little visitors. Please be extra careful while driving at this time as well.

Save The Date for Windsor Wonderland

Windsor Wonderland returns this year on Saturday, December 3 at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center. As is the tradition, there will be music, pictures with Santa, snow plow painting, decorating the new Spruce tree, and more!

Miss Wonderland

Have you wanted to enter a pageant but did not know how to get started? Are you a pageant contestant 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. For more information, visit www.windsorheights.org about age categories, fees and registration.

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.

Stormwater Tips for Fall

As summer winds down and the bright brilliant colors of fall begin to fill our trees and lawns we trade our potting tools in for rakes and lawn bags. Some of us may think, how does Stormwater relate to this? Avoid blowing lawn clippings into the street or dumping them down the storm drain. Once it rains, those leaves and grass clippings will be washed into Walnut Creek. The nutrients they contain could then cause algae blooms, which decrease the amount of light and oxygen in the water, resulting in fish and native plant kills.

Don't pile yard clippings and tree branches on a storm drain. If possible, wait to put them out until the night before your yard trash pick up and make sure that they are placed on your grass, not any impervious surfaces. Instead, place them on a grassy area or in plastic garbage cans used only for yard waste. If you do use the plastic bins, remember that we still do not want to place them on the storm drains because in a rainstorm, they can still be washed out.

Leave grass clippings on your lawn after mowing and reuse other yard waste as mulch by spreading them under bushes and flower gardens. The nutrients in these items make them the best and cheapest fertilizers your lawns and gardens can receive.

Composting is another way to reuse leaves, grass clippings and other small cuttings. By mixing these items with household wastes such as vegetable and fruit scraps, eggshells and coffee grounds, you create a perfect medium for improving soil structure, promoting soil fertility and stimulating root development in plants.

Blowing your leaves from your yard into the street is another way of polluting our stormwater drainage system. If leaves enter our storm drains it can clog them up and will have to be cleaned out by hand by our City crews. So please think about our stormwater system and Walnut Creek before blowing your leaves and yard clippings into the street, properly bag them or use them as mulch around your bushes and flower gardens.