

Snow Ordinance and Other 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 \$25.00 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.

See us on the Web at www.windsorheights.org!

City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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New Community & Events Center Gives Boost to the City



It was with tremendous pride that the Windsor Heights City staff reported to the Council at its second meeting of the year, on the successful usage of the new Windsor Heights Community & Events Center. Having opened only since July with rentals beginning in August, the new Community and Events Center brought in nearly 9,000 people to Windsor Heights for 2010. Between private weddings, corporate trainings and special events like Oktoberfest, the new center has been an overwhelming success. In addition to all the visitors, the new building has generated over \$22,000 in rental revenue. These funds are used to offset the costs associated with operat-

ing the new building.

Positive word of mouth is also generating business as more and more people visit the center and see what a handsome facility it is, equipped with state of the art accessories. It is worth noting that these visitors use local businesses to support their events, such as Hy-Vee Catering, in addition to patronizing businesses like Mustards, Grounds for Celebration, Walmart and others, making the new Community and Events Center both an economic development generator for Windsor Heights businesses as well as a desirable destination for citizens.

New too, is the ability to host special event activities indoors such as Oktoberfest and Windsor Wonderland. Although Oktoberfest featured live music, inflatable rides and interactive activities for kids outdoors, there was plenty to do inside as well, making it a larger event than in previous years. Windsor Wonderland also featured live music, along with pictures with Santa, snow plow painting and other family activities in the comfort of a lodge like setting. Both these events were overwhelming hits, attracting over 1,000 people into our city. (Include pictures)

As we move forward into 2011 with special events and with rentals held at the Community and Events Center, rest assured that you will continue having a menu of choices for your recreational and educational pleasure, rain or shine, in Colby Park, including movies, 4th of July, Oktoberfest and Windsor Wonderland. These and others will continue to enhance Colby Park and our community at large.

For information about the facility and events, contact Tracy at 645-6821 or tlevine@windsorheights.org

Meet the Staff: Christopher Cross, Fire Chief



Christopher Cross, Chief of the Windsor Heights Fire Department

Chris began working for the City of Windsor Heights in October of 2007. Chief Cross is responsible for all aspects of fire suppression, emergency medical service, fire code enforcement, and fire prevention for the City of Windsor Heights. Chris also belongs to many regional groups including the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau, Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs, and Polk County Fire Chief's Association.

Chris is a 19 year veteran of the fire service, and a 16 year paramedic. His career started in West Burlington, Iowa, where he served as a volunteer on his home town volunteer fire department while attending college at Southeastern Community College and Western Illinois University. Chris then completed the Mercy/St. Luke's paramedic training program in Cedar Rapids in 1995. Chief Cross was most recently employed by the Clive Fire Department as a career firefighter/paramedic prior to his appointment as Fire Chief for the City of Windsor Heights.

Chief Cross has two sons, Cole (14) and Colin (10). Chris is engaged to Mindy Bruecken, a career firefighter/paramedic for the Clive Fire Department. They will be married June 29, 2011 in Estes Park Colorado. Cross says of his experience so far as the Fire Chief "I have been given an extraordinary opportunity to lead some of the finest men and women I have ever met. I am extremely grateful to be where I am today. I love serving this community."



City of Windsor Heights
the heart of it all

1133 66th Street
Windsor Heights, IA 50324
(515) 279-3662
www.windsorheights.org

Moody's Assigns Aa2 Rating to City

Moody's Investors Service has assigned an Aa2 rating to the City of Windsor Heights' (IA). As part of a current bond offering, Windsor Heights was evaluated by Moody's Investment Services. Moody's has affirmed the city's outstanding Aa2 general obligation rating, which applies to \$14.4 million of general obligation unlimited tax debt, including the current offerings. The Aa2 rating is the highest possible rating a city the size of Windsor Heights can obtain.

The Aa2 rating reflects the city's modestly sized tax base favorably located within the Des Moines metropolitan area, and Moody's expectations for a continued strong financial position benefiting from increasing operating reserve levels. Moody's expects the city's financial operations to remain stable due to conservative management and ample reserves. The city ended fiscal 2009 with a General Fund cash balance of \$1.6 million (or a significant 59.4% of General Fund revenues). Fiscal 2009 closed with a slight decrease in reserves compared to prior years, but this resulted primarily from funding capital projects undertaken during the year. Fiscal 2010 figures indicate the city's ending reserve increased to \$1.7 million, or 58.8% of General Fund revenues. City officials expect an increase in reserves in fiscal 2011 as proceeds from the Series 2011A bonds will reimburse the General Fund for a loan it made to the tax increment fund in 2003. At fiscal year-end 2011, reserves are expected to be about \$4.9 million. The city maintains a reserve target of 25% of budgeted expenditures, and management reports a plan to maintain levels above 50% over the near term.

Please see www.moody.com for full rating information.

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 Brannen

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

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

FEBRUARY & MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6	7 City Council Meeting 5 PM (City Hall)	8 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 City Council Meeting 6 PM (City Hall)	22	23	24	25	26 Community Coffee Club 9 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 City Council Meeting 6 PM (City Hall)	22 WH Chamber Spaghetti Dinner 5 PM (Community Center)	23	24	25	26 Community Coffee Club 9 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
27	28	29	30	31		

NEWS BRIEFS

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, February 18 at the new Windsor Heights Community and Events Center. A free (with admission) introductory dance lesson at 8:00 pm is offered, with music beginning at 8:30 until 11:00 pm. The dance is for all ages and a partner is not needed to participate.

Community Coffee Club

Every 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00 am the Windsor Heights Community Coffee Club is held at Grounds for Celebration. This is an opportunity for any citizen to join the city manager and a council member to discuss any issues facing the city. The next Community Coffee Club is February 26 at 9:00 am. Please feel free to join us.

Don't Forget to License Your Pets

It is the time of year when dog and cat owners are reminded to have their pets licensed and tagged. This allows the City to quickly notify their owners should the pets stray and be picked up. It also verifies animals have proper rabies vaccinations. Licenses cost \$10 for altered pets and \$20 for unaltered pets. There is an additional fine if your pet is not licensed prior to April 1, so license your pet as soon as possible. Pets must have proof of their current rabies vaccination from their vet. Registration forms are on the city website or you can stop into city hall and license your pet today!

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 or after hours at 286-3333. 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.

Vacation 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:

- 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
- To sign up to have your home checked while on vacation, visit www.windsorheights.org

Annual Spaghetti Dinner



The Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce Annual Spaghetti Dinner is on Tuesday, March 22, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Windsor Heights Community Center at Colby Park.

Tickets will be available in March, and can be purchased at Bankers Trust and Matt Cale's State Farm. There will be a silent auction, activities and lots of family fun. We hope to see you there! A big thanks to our sponsors, Barilla and the Windsor Heights Hy-Vee.

Also, if you have a service or item that you wish to donate for the silent auction, please contact Barb Niccum at 279-3662.

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