

New Severe Weather Sirens Guidelines

What weather conditions cause the Outdoor Warning Sirens to be activated? In 2010, Polk County Emergency Management changed their policy for the activation of outdoor warning sirens for severe weather events. In consultation with the National Weather Service, it was decided that the policy for the activation of outdoor warning sirens be expanded to include tornadoes and events where forecasted or actual wind speeds reach or exceed 70mph (61kts).

Why was the change made? Research by the Storm Prediction Center indicates that EF0 tornadoes, which is the most common tornado occurring 53.5% of the time, pack wind speeds of 65-85mph. These wind speeds have been known to peel the surface off some roofs, break branches from trees, damage gutters and siding, push over shallow-rooted trees and turn unsecured lawn furniture and other items into dangerous projectiles. Far from an over-dramatization of the threat, the potential for serious injury to unsheltered persons from 70mph winds are comparable to that of an EF0 tornado.

Won't this lead to over-warning or "crying wolf" when there isn't a threat? Historical research of weather records from the National Climatic Data Center dating back to 1987 indicate that on average, the sirens would be activated one additional time per year for severe thunderstorms with winds at or exceeding 70mph. This research alleviated the concern that we would be desensitizing the public by overuse of the sirens.

How much did it cost to change the policy? This change in policy did not require the expenditure of any additional funds to complete.

Why can't I hear the sirens indoors? Outdoor warning sirens are used for just that: outdoor warning. They are not designed to be heard inside structures and are instead to warn persons outside who do not have access to electronic devices for receiving alerts. Persons inside should monitor any and all sources of information including, but not limit-

ed to television, radio, internet, and NOAA weather alert radios for weather warnings. Radios and NOAA weather alert radios can be battery-operated and will function when the power is out. NOAA weather alert radios can also be set to alert you during the night when you are sleeping.

What do the sirens mean? When it comes to severe weather, outdoor warning sirens have one purpose and one purpose only - to alert people who are outdoors that something dangerous is happening and they should go inside. Outdoor warning sirens are crude devices in and of themselves. The sirens only produce one tone, indicating that conditions are such that you should seek shelter and additional information to ensure your safety. They are designed to work in concert with other more sophisticated systems such as television, radio, internet and NOAA weather alert radios to provide complete information about the threat. It is then the responsibility of individuals to take action based on that threat. Sirens may sound before hazardous conditions exist. Due to the nature of severe weather, hazardous conditions may also develop before an activation of the sirens is possible. Outdoor warning sirens should not be your sole source of warning.

How do I know when it is "all clear" and the warning is over? Outdoor weather sirens do not transmit an "all clear". Instead, the sirens will sound in a cycle of 3-5 minutes, followed by a 10-15 minute break for the duration of the threat (warning period). Residents need to monitor television, radio, internet, and NOAA weather alert radios for information regarding when the threat has diminished.

Questions about siren activation. We ask that residents refrain from calling 9-1-1 to question the activation or non-activation of the outdoor warning sirens. This places an undue burden on the 9-1-1 system and prevents true emergency calls from getting through. Questions regarding the policy or process can be directed to Polk County Emergency Management at 286-2107.

Hickman Road

As you may have recently notice, the former BP gas station, Little Cheaper Consignment Shop and office building on Hickman Road have been removed. This is part of a larger economic redevelopment and road project. Starting this summer and into fall, additional turning lanes will be added along Hickman Road, 63rd Street and some other side roads. Once complete, this project will allow for a much smoother, safer, faster flow of traffic through the entire area around 63rd and Hickman Road. The city is also actively working to redevelop the entire area with new commercial and residential buildings and units in the future years, making a significant reinvestment within our city.

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2011 Capital Projects

In addition to the construction already underway on University Blvd, just west of 73rd Street and the construction around 63rd and Hickman Road, several other large road projects are about to begin. These projects are part of a larger capital improvement plan approved by the City Council earlier this year in March with the city's continued commitment to improving our infrastructure. Construction will begin later this year to replace the concrete in and around the intersection of 70th and Washington. This will cause 70th Street to be closed as the concrete is tore up and replaced with new pavement. The longer the concrete is allowed to dry or cure, the stronger and longer lasting it will be. In addition to the concrete replacement plan at 70th and Washington, a longer stretch of concrete will be replaced on Franklin Street, from roughly 63rd Street to 64th Street. Both these project will disrupt normal traffic flow, so please be cautious and patient as we continue to improve our streets.

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

City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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National Night Out

In addition to the Music in the Park at 7:00 pm on August 2, the Windsor Heights Police Association will host the National Night Out against crime and violence at Colby Park from 6:00-8:00 pm, with outstanding activities including:

- Meet-and-greet of the Windsor Heights Police force
- National Guard Blackhawk helicopter landing/display (weather permitting)
- Ice cream social (while supplies last)
- Display of police vehicles, bike patrol, speed trailer
- Temporary police tattoos, activities and games for children including a bounce house
- Balloons, stickers, police cards, coloring books, other free giveaways
- Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch tent
- Home security representatives, family/drug awareness resources

National Night Out is designed to: 1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; 2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs such as the Neighborhood Watch; 3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and 4) Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

National Night Out is sponsored locally by the Windsor Heights Police Association, WH Chamber of Commerce, Hy-Vee, Bankers Trust, and Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

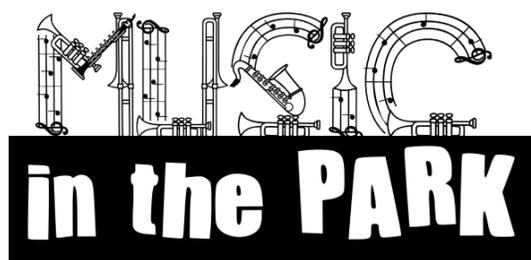
Takin' it to the Streets

The City is excited to have the return of the Takin' it to the Streets program in 2011. This award winning program started three years ago and involves the City holding city council meetings in the various neighborhoods. Our second Takin' it to the Streets meeting will be on July 18, at the round-about at Del Matro Court, located between 67th and 68th Streets. If the weather is poor, we will move inside back to City Hall. Following the meeting, we will have cookies for everyone to share and get to know their neighbors a little better. As always, the meetings will start at 6:00 pm. Please remember to bring your lawn chair.



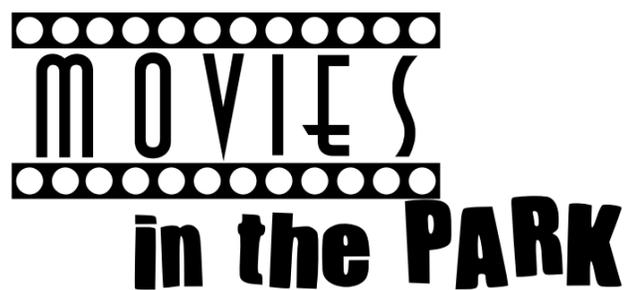
City of Windsor Heights
the heart of it all

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



2011 SCHEDULE

July 12 Jazz in July: John Krantz Quartet
 July 19 Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra
 July 26 Hold On
 August 2 Greater Des Moines Community Band
 August 9 Hot Club of Des Moines



2011 SCHEDULE

July 8 The Karate Kid
 July 15 Antz
 July 22 Iron Man 2
 July 29 Blindsight
 August 2 Rain date

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

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

JULY & AUGUST						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4 July 4th Activities (Colby Park) City Hall Closed	5 City Council Meeting CANCELLED	6	7	8 Movie in the Park (Colby Park)	9
10	11	12 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM Music in the Park 7 PM (Colby Park)	13	14	15 Movie in the Park (Colby Park)	16 Neighborhood Watch Quarterly Meeting 10:30 AM (3E)
17	18 City Council Meeting 6 PM (Del Matro Court)	19 Music in the Park 7 PM (Colby Park)	20	21	22 Movie in the Park (Colby Park)	23 Community Coffee Club 9 AM (Grounds for Celebration)
24	25	26 Music in the Park 7 PM (Colby Park)	27	28	29 Movie in the Park (Colby Park)	30
31	1 City Council Meeting 6 PM (City Hall)	2 National Night Out & Music in the Park 7 PM (Colby Park)	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM Music in the Park 7 PM (Colby Park)	10	11	12	13
14	15 City Council Meeting 6 PM (Luin Lane)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Community Coffee Club 9 AM (Grounds for Celebration)

NEWS BRIEFS

Neighborhood Watch Quarterly Meeting

The Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch will be holding its Quarterly Meeting On Saturday, July 16, 2011 from 10:30am to 12:00pm at the 3E building north of the freeway at 953 73rd Street meeting held in the Large Conference room.

All residents of Windsor Heights are more than welcome to attend. Children are welcome at meetings when accompanied by a parent or adult. There is no cost or obligation to attend or to join the Neighborhood Watch. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bill Shepherd 515-650-3100 whneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

Make Your Reservation for the Windsor Heights Community & Event Center

The Community and Event Center at Colby Park is available for rent by individuals, businesses and civic organizations. Although the facility is extremely popular, please do not hesitate to consider it for your upcoming event. The calendar is now available on line, www.windsorheights.org; go to Park & Recreation.

If you have questions or wish to tour, do not hesitate to contact Tracy at 645-6821 or tlevine@windsorheights.org.

Kids Summer Camp

My Own New Biz is offering a summer money camp August 1-5 for kids ages 8-12. During the camp, students learn the fundamentals of starting their own business. Kids create, sell, and market their products; create a savings plan; and contribute a portion of their earnings to the charity of their choice. Camp sessions are 9:00 am-3:00 pm, each day, at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center. \$195 per camper. Call (515) 771-5255 to make reservations. Vist www.myownnewbiz.com for more information. Special thanks to the City of Windsor Heights and Sam's Club for supporting these efforts.

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.



Art Classes in July at Colby Park

Colby Park is now offering art classes for grades k-6th every Tuesday in July. The classes will be covering some of our history's great artists. Each class will cost \$15.00 per child plus a \$5.00 material fee. Each child will also receive a sketch journal to track their own artistic growth.

Grades K-1st will meet at 5:00-6:00 p.m.
 Grades 2nd-4th will meet at 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Grades 5th & 6th will meet from 8:00- 9:00 p.m.

July 5: Van Gough-Blue Period Kids will be painting on canvas with a fun technique in shades of blue.
July 12: Picasso Kids will be painting on canvas a self portrait Picasso Style
July 19: P.Buckley Moss Kids will be painting on watercolor paper folk art style paintings
July 26: Andy Worrall Kids will be painting on canvas tote bags in pop art style paintings

Each class will give a brief lesson of each artist's life. They will learn about technique of painting and have hands on help with their projects. Contact 339-7206 or by e-mail katjostevens@hotmail.com to register. Paint shirts will be provided, unless you would like to use your own.

Parents: Remember Music in the Park will be going on the same nights as the classes! Enjoy the entertainment outside while your kids have fun at class inside.