

# Windsor Heights Garbage & Recycling Reminders

## GARBAGE

**Residential Garbage Hauler:** Waste Management of Iowa  
**Customer Service Number:** (515) 265-5267

**Automated Garbage Collection:** Windsor Heights has automated garbage collection. Containers are available in 32-, 64-, and 96-gallon sizes. New residents will inherit the container selected by previous occupants; they may exchange their container at no cost. Residents moving into newly built homes should call Waste Management of Iowa at (515) 265-5267 to order a container at no charge.

- Place your container at least 18 inches from the curb with the metal bars facing the street.
- Containers must be at least 6 feet from permanent structures (including mailboxes, walls, lampposts, vehicles, and utility poles).
- Avoid placing the container near low-hanging tree branches and be sure it's on a level surface.
- Place your Curb It! bin, additional trash items, and yard waste bags at least three to six feet away from your container.

**Set Out Day:** Friday

**Set Out Time:** 7:00 a.m.

**Special Pickup:** Special pickup services are available for physically disabled residents. Call Waste Management of Iowa for more information.

**Appliances:** Appliances placed at the curb must have additional stickers. Call Waste Management of Iowa to schedule an appliance pickup, find out which appliances are included, applicable fees, and where stickers can be purchased.

**Spring Cleanup Events:** Spring cleanup event is held each year. Call City Hall for date, time, and applicable fees.

## CURB IT! RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

**Curb It! Hauler:** Waste Management of Iowa  
**Customer Service Number:** Waste Management of Iowa. (515) 24-GREEN (47336)

**Set Out Procedure:** Recycling carts will be picked up every other week, based on the color of your cart lid.

## COMPOST IT! – YARD & GARDEN WASTE RECYCLING

**Yard Waste Hauler:** Waste Management of Iowa  
**Customer Service Number:** (515) 265-5267

**Day:** On regular garbage pickup day, March 28 – December 2, 2011

**Time:** Same as garbage and recyclables

**Ensure Collection:** Yard waste bags, bundles and premium carts must be at least three feet away from your garbage container.

**Missed Collection?** Call Waste Management at (515) 265-5267.

**Bag & Sticker Program:** Stickers are available at most area grocery stores and City Hall

**Cost Per Bag:** \$1.55 (\$7.75 for bundle of five)

**Cost Per Sticker:** (for brush bundles and generic bags) \$1.10 (through June 30th) \$1.15 (beginning July 1st)

Attach a sticker to each brush bundle or generic bag.

Brush bundles must be no more than 18 inches in diameter and no more than four feet long. Bundles cannot weigh more than 40 lbs. Each bundle must have a Compost It! sticker attached.

## PREMIUM COMPOST IT! CART PROGRAM

The Compost It! Premium Service is an optional subscription service, for participating communities. Residents have the convenience of a 96-gallon wheeled cart for weekly collection of yard waste. Renewal is made simple through a sticker to attach to the cart, confirming service for the annual yard and garden waste collection season. You can purchase your cart for a one-time fee of \$80 and then your annual sticker is \$100. For more information about ordering a cart, please email Barb Niccum at [bniccum@windsorheights.org](mailto:bniccum@windsorheights.org) or call (515) 279-3662. Premium Compost and yard waste pick-ups begin on April 1.

### New Customers

New customers pay an initial fee for the cart and then purchase an annual program sticker to attach to the container. This sticker price covers the cost of the hauler picking up the yard waste for the annual Compost It! season. The initial cart fee is a one-time cost; the sticker must be renewed annually for service each year. New customers should visit Windsor Heights City Hall to sign up for the program.

### Current Customers

Renew Premium Service sticker online at:

[https://www.mwatoday.com/residential/compost\\_it\\_premium.aspx](https://www.mwatoday.com/residential/compost_it_premium.aspx)

The Compost It! Premium Service containers are for yard waste only. This includes grass clippings, leaves, branches, yard and garden trimmings, and brush. Containers are placed at the curb the same as trash containers and are collected weekly on your regular garbage collection day. Excess yard waste can be put in standard Compost It! bags or as stickered bundles and placed with the wheeled container at the curb.

See us on the Web at [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org)!

# City of Windsor Heights

A M E R I C A ' S C R O W N C O M M U N I T Y N E W S L E T T E R

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## Legislative Proposal

Recently, the Windsor Heights City Council discussed a proposed change in the way commercial property is taxed in Iowa. Governor Branstad has proposed decreasing the taxable value of commercial properties by 40% over the next five years; decreasing the taxable value by 8% per year. This proposal would have impacts to the City's revenues, which would result in a significant drop in revenues for the city and would either cause a tax adjustment and/or cut in services. Staff has analyzed the proposal and developed estimates of the financial impact to the City and the citizens. Impacts are calculated in terms of today's dollars and ultimate impacts after the rollback is completely implemented.

### General Fund and Special Revenue Fund Impacts

- The City's general fund, "8.10" revenues would decrease by \$143,920. This is roughly equivalent to the salaries of three police officers.
- The City's library levy collections would decrease by \$4,796.
- The City has no way to make up these specific revenues due to taxing limits, however the Council would have the option to offset these costs by using other sections of the levy to defray other eligible expenses.
  - o \$.13500 levy for operation and maintenance of city-owned civic center;
  - o \$.52811 levy for physical training time for fire fighters and police officers;
  - o \$.08699 levy for joint emergency management planning commission;
  - o \$.43936 in liability, property and other insurance costs; and
  - o \$.20985 of the emergency levy.
- In Windsor Heights, use of these levies could generate the \$148,716 to offset the loss of the other revenues and would increase the combined general fund and special revenue portion of the levy by \$1.25679.
- Additionally, the levy for the same amount of FICA-IPERS that is necessary, the levy would increase by \$.14252.
- This brings the total general fund and special revenues levy increase to \$1.39931, which means the average resi-

dential property owner in Windsor Heights would pay \$106.58 MORE than what they currently do.

### TIF Fund—► Debt Service Levy Impacts

- The City's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenue would decrease by \$672,821.
- The impact would be an additional \$3.57425 to the City's debt service levy.

### TOTAL FUNDING IMPACTS

- Revenue decrease to the City is \$821,537 annually (calculated in terms of today's dollars.)
- Total potential levy rate increase is \$4.97356.
- The cost to the average residential property owner is \$378.80 (based on a home value of \$162,361.)
- The average residential property owner in Windsor Heights would pay \$272.22 MORE in City taxes annually to offset this loss. (This is for City taxes only and does not include any adjustments by the school districts, which are typically the larger portion of property taxes; DART; Broadlawns Hospital; Community Colleges; etc.)

Your State elected officials are working on a number of pieces of legislation. If you have questions or comments about the Governor's commercial property tax proposal or other legislations and would like to find out the status of it, following is contact information for your State elected officials.

Governor Terry Branstad  
 1007 East Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
 (515) 281-5211

<https://governor.iowa.gov/contact/>

Senator Pat Ward  
 (515) 281-3391  
[pat.ward@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:pat.ward@legis.state.ia.us)

Representative Chris Hagenow  
 (515) 281-3221  
[chris.hagenow@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:chris.hagenow@legis.state.ia.us)



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)

# Spring Clean-Up Sewer Cleaning

Spring is not far away in Windsor Heights! In fact, Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful's annual Spring Clean-Up has been announced for Saturday, April 16 from 8:30 to 10:30 am. It has been said "many hands make light work," so the more the merrier. Bring your family, your nonprofit group, your friends or anyone interested in making a difference in our community! Meet us at our home base in the white tent north of Burger King on 73rd Street at 8:30-10:30 AM on April 16. You'll get gloves, refuse bags and an assigned clean-up area. Refreshments will also be available at the meeting site.

Two hours of work from each of us will help keep Windsor Heights beautiful! The cleanup day is sponsored by Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful committee. Refreshments and supplies are being furnished by Grounds for Celebration, HyVee and Sam's Club.

The City of Windsor Heights has contracted Visu-Sewer to perform the sanitary sewer routine cleaning starting in mid-February through mid March. Visu-Sewer uses a high pressure jet machine to clean the main sewer lines. The cleaning process can cause pressure changes in the sewer attached to your home. This should not affect most homes but in some homes that have inadequate or partially blocked drain vents, water in the traps and drains may be sucked out leaving a dry trap. It could also force the water out of the drains splashing the area around the drain. To avoid excessive splatter, close toilet lids and cover drains with a bucket or mat. After crew has left your neighborhood, run a gallon or so of water into each drain to fill your traps with water to keep any sewer odor out of your home.

## 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:

Charlene Butz  
Betty Glover  
Dave Jenison  
Steve Peterson  
Diana Willits

City Admin. . . . .Marketa George Oliver

Chief Financial Off. . . . .Carrie Brannen

Fire Chief . . . . .Christopher Cross

Police Chief . . . . .Dennis McDaniel

Public Works Director Jason Van Ausdall

Director of Comm. Svcs. Josh Heggen

### 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

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

MARCH & APRIL						
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 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	1	2
3	4 City Council Meeting 6 PM (City Hall)	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Mayor's Hour 9-10 AM	13	14	15	16 KWHB Community Clean-up 8:30 AM (Burger King)
17	18 City Council Meeting 6 PM (City Hall)	19	20	21	22	23 Easter Egg Hunt (Colby Park) Community Coffee Club 9 AM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce invites you to its Annual Spaghetti Dinner. This year the dinner will be held at the Community Center at Colby Park on Tuesday, March 22 from 5:00-7:00 pm. 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.

### Street Lights

Have you noticed your street light is burned out, dimmed or staying on during the day? If you have a light on your street that is in need of repair, please visit [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org) and click on the Street Light Repair link or contact MidAmerican Energy directly at 1-800-799-4443. All streetlights in Windsor Heights are repaired by MidAmerican Energy.

### 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.

## Windsor Heights Community Center Classes

### Existing Home Assessment Lunch-n-Learns

The six-part series, sponsored by Iowa Center on Sustainable Communities, addresses a specific area of the home, including red flags to look for, easy fixes, best practices and other valuable information homeowners need to efficiently operate and maintain their homes. Attendees will gain comprehensive understanding of applicable green building principals from leading local experts.

- Dates: Begins Thursday, February 17 and continues through October 27.
- Time: Each workshop takes place from 11:30 am-1:00pm (lunch is included)
- Fee: \$10.00 for COSC Members/\$20.00 for Non-Members
- Registration: Online at [icosc.com](http://icosc.com), or contact Leslie Berckes at (515) 707-2787 or [leslie@icosc.com](mailto:leslie@icosc.com).

### Natural Hormone Replacement Therapy

Monday, April 4 • 6:30-9:00 pm • Fee: \$30.00  
Bioidentical natural hormone replacement is available to women who cannot tolerate or choose not to use conventional, commercially-prepared hormone replacement therapy. Sue Horton, compounding pharmacist, and Carolyn Walker, MSN/ Family Nurse Practitioner, will address human physiology, the benefits of over-the-counter and prescribed plant based products, and how to work with your health care professional to determine your hormone levels and specific needs.

### ABC's of Moving for Seniors

Tuesday, April 12 • 6:30-8:30 pm • Fee: \$15.00  
What would you do if suddenly faced with having to move from your home? Learn how to start the process of planning your next move, protect the equity in your home and explore senior housing options. Children of seniors facing this situation are also welcome. No promotion of specific products or companies. Materials cost of \$5 payable to instructor. Taught by Mary Eikenberry, Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES) with advanced education on this topic.