

Winterize Your Home

Cold, winter weather will soon be upon us. Take advantage of the temperate, fall conditions to do some winterizing around your home. Here are a few tips to help you prevent your pipes from freezing:

- Cover the pipes in your attic, crawl spaces, and unheated garage with pipe insulation, heat tape or heat cables. Make sure you use material safe for pipe insulation. The more insulation you use, the better your pipes will be protected.
- Seal any leaks allowing cold air inside your home with caulk or insulation. Leaks are commonly found around dryer vents, pipes, and electrical wiring. Even a small air leak can cause your pipes to freeze during severely cold weather.
- Disconnect garden hoses and store them indoors during the winter. Cover your outdoor faucets with faucet covers, or wrap them in old rags and cover with plastic. If possible, drain water from pipes leading to outdoor faucets by shutting off the indoor valve.
- Open cabinet doors that cover plumbing on extremely cold nights. This lets heat move to areas in your home where pipes are not insulated, such as under sinks.
- Set the thermostat no lower than 55°F (12°C) if you are leaving your home for an extended period of time. Turn off the water and drain your pipes. Fire protection sprinkler systems will deactivate automatically after the water is shut off.



Reminder for Winter Vacationers:

Contact a Des Moines Water Works Customer Service Representative at (515) 283-8700 with your departure and expected return dates. If you plan to leave your water on while you are gone, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to periodically check your home. Also, make sure you leave emergency contact information with that person.

Be a Dear – Don't Feed the Deer

The City of Windsor Heights joins with many other state and local agencies in asking you to refrain from feeding wildlife, particularly deer in the area. This practice almost always carries with it negative consequences for the wildlife involved. (These include increased disease transmission and increased mortality due to vehicle collisions). In addition, there could be safety and social concerns for members of the public, such as the potential increase in vehicle collisions, as well as damage to property and nuisance problems.

There are a number of deer along Walnut Creek and throughout the community. We realize that people who feed deer, do so with good intention. However, even though you may feel you are helping them if you feed them, please bear in mind that wildlife should remain wild. They should find their food and shelter in natural habitats. This gives them the on-going ability to adapt and survive.

People are often tempted to feed deer during winter in order to "save" them from winter conditions. This practice causes a particular set of problems. Research has shown that there is actually little or no benefit from feeding deer during winter. In fact, there are a number of negative consequences. Here is why you should not feed deer or provide salt licks:

- Artificial feeding may not actually improve winter survival.
- Deer visiting feeding areas lose their natural wildness and aversion to people.
- Feeding manufactured food products removes their natural adaptations to cope with severe winters in their natural habitat.
- Natural migration patterns to their wintering areas may be disrupted if the animals are enticed to remain at a feeding area.
- Deer become concentrated around feeding areas, resulting in destruction of natural habitat.
- Concentrations of deer at feeding stations also increase the risk of disease transmission among the animals.
 - The digestive system of deer adapts to the typical natural food that is available during winter. Improper feeding of other food types can cause digestive problems that may result in death.
 - Deer that become accustomed to feeders and are then not fed proper quantities or quality of food will also die.

More information at www.windsorheights.org

City of Windsor Heights

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AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



This year's Windsor Wonderland will be a two day celebration at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center in Colby Park. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food can or personal care product for the Windsor Heights Food Pantry. Times to be announced the first part of November with further information at www.windsorheights.org.

On Friday, November 30, children are invited to "cozy up" by wearing pajama's, bringing sleeping bags and enjoying an evening of the Polar Express.

- Games** Play "The Conductor Says"
Find the Bell in the Polar Express Maze
- Recipe** Make polar graham cracker cookies
- Activities** Make your own garland
Watch "The Polar Express"

On Saturday, December 1, much joy will be spread with: Breakfast with Santa

- Live musical performances
- Hands-on workshops celebrating winter holidays around the world: Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa
- Photos with Santa for Children, Families, Pets

Annual Holiday Lighting Contest

The Windsor Heights Foundation is pleased to announce the 2012 holiday lighting contest. The Foundation will divide the city into six zones, and award a \$50.00 prize to the winner in each zone. The Foundation will award an additional \$50.00 for the "Best of the Best." The contest winners will receive a recognition sign to place in their yard. The Foundation also appreciates the businesses that decorate for the holidays.

Judging will take place between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. from Tuesday December 4, 2012 through Tuesday December 11, 2012, and the Foundation is asking residents to have their decorations in place and lit during this time.

The Foundation has selected these criteria for judging the displays:

1. Consistent theme (not a mix of secular and religious)
2. Balanced design; not cluttered or overdone
3. Creativity in design
4. Originality, including "hand-crafted" elements
5. Minimum use of "plastic"
6. Display looks good by day as well as by night

For further information, contact Sandy O'Brien at 279-8942 or George Hanusa at 255-6367.



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

Inspect Sanitary Sewers

Fall is an ideal time to have a plumbing company inspect your sanitary sewer lines for cracks, failing joints and root balls. These are all signs that your sanitary sewer line needs replaced. The good news is there is a program to help you cover the costs associated with replacing that line.

Partially forgivable loans are available to home owners who need to make upgrades to their sewer. The loans are up to 50 percent forgivable, depending on property owners' income levels. The loans are administered through the Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC). As part of the NFC loan, if the homeowner resides in the home for five years, the forgivable portion of the loan will be 100% forgiven at the end of the fifth 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 financial assistance program, you can call the Neighborhood Finance Corporation at 246-0010 or visit www.neighborhoodfinance.org. As always, feel free to call city hall 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:

Diana Willits
Charlene Butz
Betty Glover
Dave Jenison
Dave Burgess

Interim City Administrator ..Josh Heggen

Chief Financial Officer. . . .Carrie Kruse

Fire ChiefChristopher Cross

Police ChiefDennis McDaniel

Public Works Director Jason Van Ausdall

Police Department:

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

Fire Department279-3662

Public Works Dept.279-3662

Colby Park Reservations279-3662

Building Inspector279-3662

Animal Control279-3662

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

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Community Coffee Club (Grounds for Celebration)
18	19 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	20	21	22 City Hall Closed	23 City Hall Closed	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Windsor Wonderland
2	3 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Community Coffee Club (Grounds for Celebration)
16	17 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 City Hall Closed	25 City Hall Closed	26	27	28	29

NEWS BRIEFS

City Administrator Search

Windsor Heights is currently searching for a new city administrator. Applicants are currently being screened by the executive search consultant hired by the city to find the most qualified candidates. Citizen involvement is an important part of the process. Please watch the city's website and read the email Windsor Wave newsletter for opportunities for public participation in the process.

Report Illegal Dumping

Storm sewers in Windsor Heights drain directly to Walnut Creek and do not go into a wastewater plant for treatment. It is important to prevent the introduction of materials into these drains, which could cause problems in the receiving streams. Prohibited discharges to storm drains and streams include:

- waste oils and grease
- paints and associated products, like thinners, solvents, chemicals, etc.
- solids of any kind including yard waste

If you have witnessed an illegal discharge to the city sewers or streams and would like to make a report, please call City Hall at 279-3662. Please include your name and phone number, including the location of the suspected dumping, providing pictures is also helpful.

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. To sign up to have your home checked while on vacation, visit www.windsorheights.org or come into City Hall to complete a form. For your protection, we cannot take vacation watch information over the phone.

- Submit the form five days before you leave. This allows our staff to distribute the information to the Police Officers on patrol.
- Complete the form as completely as possible.
- Always include emergency contact information.

Adopt a Family

Sponsors are needed for the 2012 Holiday Adopt-a-Family program to provide a holiday meal and presents to residents in Urbandale and Windsor Heights who qualify for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Last year, sponsors assisted 147 families during the holiday season.

Clients must live in Windsor Heights or Urbandale and qualify for LIHEAP to be matched with a sponsor family. To sign up for the program, clients must bring the LIHEAP approval letter and ID's for each family member to the Urbandale Food Pantry.

For more information, contact the Urbandale Food Pantry at 251-6688 or visit urbandalefoodpantry.org.

Upcoming Events at Windsor Heights Community & Events Center

Swing Des Moines

Tuesdays, November 13-27 • 7:00-9:00 pm

The original swing dance survey class gives you a taste of the major swing dances. This class covers the basic moves of dances such as Jitterbug, Lindy, Charleston, Balboa and more. Nothing too crazy, just the basics. It's ideal for both beginners, as well as more experienced dancers. Price is \$20 for Swing Des Moines members/\$40 for non-members. To register, visit www.swingdesmoines.com.

Take Home Turkey Dinners

Tuesday, November 20 • 6:00-9:00 pm

Chief Glenda Reiling is offering a traditional Thanksgiving cooking class. Each attendee will prepare an entire meal for 15 guests for \$120 per student. Windsor Heights residents receive \$5 discount. To register, visit CookwithGlenda.com.

Holiday Store Clearance Sale

Sunday, December 2 • 1:00-6:00 pm

Need an unusual holiday gift. Come to the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center and choose between hundreds of unique items, 50-75% off retail prices. Some of these include cookie cutters, wreaths, ornaments, storage bags and lots more, all featured in national magazines. Part of the proceeds goes to support the special events of Windsor Heights.

Gourmet Dinner

Monday, December 10 • 5:00-9:00 pm

The Windsor Heights Hy-Vee, known for its talented chefs and catering staff, will present a gourmet five course dinner, with each course paired with its own wine. Pricing and sign up information is available by calling 277-5218.