

# Christmas Tree and Winter Yard Waste Collection

After the gifts are unwrapped and the decorations are put away, the only thing left is to get your tree to the curb. The city provides Christmas tree collection through Metro Waste Authority's Compost It! program. Trees are picked-up on your regular garbage days between December 31 and January 11, and they must have a Compost It! sticker attached. Stickers are sold at participating grocery and hardware stores for \$1.15. Please remove all decorations.

This is also the last time any remaining yard debris is collected before spring. Be sure to use a Compost It! cart or bags, or attach Compost It! stickers to generic bags to ensure your yard waste is picked up.

For more information about yard waste collection, visit Metro Waste Authority at [www.WhereItShouldGo.com](http://www.WhereItShouldGo.com) or call 515-244-0021.

## Chimney Fires

As you snuggle in front of a cozy fire or bask in the warmth of your wood stove, you are taking part in a ritual of comfort and enjoyment handed down through the centuries. The last thing you are likely to be thinking about is the condition of your chimney. However, if you don't give some thought to it before you light those winter fires; your enjoyment may be very short-lived. Why? Dirty chimneys can cause chimney fires, which damage structures, destroy homes and injure or kill people.

Chimney fires don't have to happen. Here are some ways to avoid them:

- Use seasoned woods only (dryness is more important than hard wood versus soft wood considerations)
- Build smaller, hotter fires that burn more completely and produce less smoke
- Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, trash or Christmas trees; these can spark a chimney fire
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures where wood stoves are in use, so you can adjust burning practices as needed
- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned on a regular basis

### Proper Maintenance

Clean chimneys don't catch fire. Make sure a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep inspects your solid fuel venting system annually, and cleans and repairs it whenever needed.

Your sweep may have other maintenance recommendations depending on how you use your fireplace or stove.

CSIA recommends that you call on certified chimney sweeps, since they are regularly tested on their understanding of the complexities of chimney and venting systems.

## 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 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.

More information at [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org)

# City of Windsor Heights

AMERICA'S CROWN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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## K-9 Unit Ready to Serve



Officer Bill Canada and his new canine (K-9) partner took to the streets of Windsor Heights on October 15. The police department's newest member is named Argos; he is a Belgium Malinois. Malinois's are a similar breed to the German Shepherd, but are known for their great agility and work ethic. The name "Argos" comes from a faithful dog to the king of Ithaca in Greek mythology. Argos was trained and purchased from Canine Tactical out of Chariton, Iowa. Argos underwent training from a very young age to become an effective police dog. Then in September and October, Officer Canada and Argos underwent an intensive five-week final training program under the teaching of Joshua Morton, owner of Canine Tactical.

Morton is a retired Navy SEAL who trained K-9 teams for the military.

Their training started at a basic level and ended with more advanced detection and apprehension work. The course also included intensive physical fitness for Officer Canada and Argos to develop and create a lasting bond. During the course, Officer Canada and Argos worked in all different elements and lighting conditions to prepare for the endless possibility of environments the team could be faced with. The final week of the course was scenario based. These scenarios portrayed real life incidents that the K-9 team will respond to while on duty. Officer Canada and Argos successfully completed and were certified by Joshua Morton.

The following week Officer Canada and Argos traveled to McPherson, Kansas to receive national certification at the Heart of America K-9 Association Trials. The certification process took place the week of October 8. Argos is now fully certified in narcotics detection, criminal apprehension, handler protection, and tracking. In matters of court hearings and prosecution, these certifications for the canine team are vital to achieve and maintain on an annual basis.

Officer Canada and Argos will be available around-the-clock as an added resource to the City of Windsor Heights as well as neighboring jurisdictions. In the future they will also be available for demonstrations and utilized as a public forum to discuss on-going community safety and wellness issues. As you see Officer Canada and Argos out in our community, please be aware that this is a working dog with a degree of training similar to that of a professional athlete. Because of this, he is very focused on his job and should not be approached unless approval is given from his handler, and unfortunately, he will not be able to accept any special treats you may want to offer.

Thank you again to our business community, residents, and elected officials for making this additional resource possible!



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)

# Windsor Heights Foundation Annual Fund Drive Underway

The Windsor Heights Foundation was founded in 1985 to raise funds to implement, support and maintain projects and programs that benefit city residents and businesses.

To this end, the Foundation conducts a fund raising drive each fall to raise money, and welcomes contributions throughout the year.

All residents and businesses in the 50324 zip code area will be receiving a letter this month inviting them to make a contribution to the Foundation. Current and past donors will also have received a first class mailing before then. All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

The Foundation relies on the generosity of individuals and businesses and organizations that provide grants to fund Music in the Park and other projects.

Please open and read the letter when it comes. Make a contribution and partner with the Foundation in helping make Windsor Heights a great place to live and do businesses.

Questions may be addressed to George Hanusa; phone 255-6367; email geojanh@msn.com

## 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:

Diana Willits  
Charlene Butz  
Betty Glover  
Dave Jenison  
Dave Burgess

Interim City Administrator . . .Josh Heggen

Chief Financial Officer. . . .Carrie Kruse

Fire Chief . . . . .Christopher Cross

Police Chief . . . . .Dennis McDaniel

Public Works Director Jason Van Ausdall

### 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

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

DECEMBER 2012 & JANUARY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
30	31	1 City Hall Closed	2	3	4	5
6	7 City Council Meeting 6 pm (City Hall)	8	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 (Grounds for Celebration)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 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.

### Broadway Reviw

Come enjoy the talents of 20 high school singers when they present an evening of Broadway hits from Classics (Camelot, Annie Get Your Gun) to Contemporary (Wicked, Les Miserables) in full costume on Friday, January 18, 6:30 pm at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center. Pianist Ann Hargens will put her fabulous fingers to work accompanying the students including Windsor Heights resident Emily Condon.

Students are from the voice studio of Gloria Olson, Windsor Heights resident and Chamber member. Gloria brings 25 years of teaching and singing experience to her studio most recently including teaching opera in Viterbo, Italy.

This event is open to the public.

### Emergency Access

When recovering from a major snowfall, it's easy to forget emergency responders not only need access to your front door, but to the equipment that will help save your home in the event of an emergency. The Windsor Heights Fire Department is recommending citizens clear a three foot perimeter around fire hydrants that are covered with snow. It's also smart to shovel an access path to the road, so fire fighters can easily thread a water hose to the hydrant from the street.

In general, for every minute a home fire goes unsuppressed or undetected, it doubles in size. Every second counts. If a fire occurs in your home or in your neighborhood, you don't want firefighters wasting those seconds shoveling snow to gain access to the fire hydrant.

### 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.

## 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.

## At Your Service

Residents experiencing slow drains and/or sewer back ups are encouraged to call the Public Works department at 279-3662. 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.