



Windsor Wave

Pass it on • "Wave" to a Friend

FEBRUARY 2012

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

Help Windsor Heights Keep Walnut Creek Clean.

Please help Windsor Heights ensure that Walnut Creek is clean by choosing ice and snow removal products that do not contain harmful chemicals.

LEARN ABOUT THE CITY BUDGET!

The Windsor Heights City Council is set to approve the city budget on March 5th. The city budget gets approved every year and is effective the following July 1st. The budget process also includes approving the city's capital improvement plan, which dictates what major projects, like water line replacement, road resurfacing, etc., that the city will complete the next several fiscal years. On February 25th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, the city will have a public information meeting where the City Administrator and Chief Financial Officer will walk through the budget with citizens and answer questions. There will also be a formal public hearing, scheduled for March 5th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Please visit the City's Web site at www.windsorheights.org or join the City's email distribution list at <http://www.windsorheights.org/emails/signup.htm> so you receive notices regarding the public input and public hearings.

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 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.

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 Thursday, March 8th from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Bankers Trust and Matt Cale State Farm or City Hall. 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.



WINDSOR HEIGHTS VALUES SUSTAINABILITY

The Community and Events Center has hosted two separate events this year to educate our citizens on sustainability and the environment. So far, a watershed analysis has been shared and 3E showed how you can save money and electricity with simple home upgrades. Please join us for our next events. See below.

MARCH 29th • 6:00 p.m. **COMMUNITY AND EVENTS CENTER**

Every year, the sanitary sewer pipes in Windsor Heights, through broken and deteriorating pipes, leaking joints and manholes and also through private residential lines with the same problems (and other connections like perimeter home drains and sump pumps), send thousands of gallons of rain and ground water into our sanitary sewer lines. As you can imagine, this creates a massive problem for our environment, the city as a whole and sometimes, individual property owners. Not only does all the water in our sanitary sewer lines have to be treated in a waste water treatment plant, costing millions of dollars, but this also causes sewer backups into people's homes - a problem no one wants to deal with. The City of Windsor Heights has worked with the Windsor Heights-Urbandale Sanitary Sewer District and Polk County to create a fund, administered by the Neighborhood Finance Corporation, to help residents offset the costs with fixing their private sanitary sewer problems. Plan to attend and learn more about financing available to help solve your home's problems.

RAIN BARRELS • APRIL 19th 6:00 p.m. **COMMUNITY AND EVENTS CENTER**

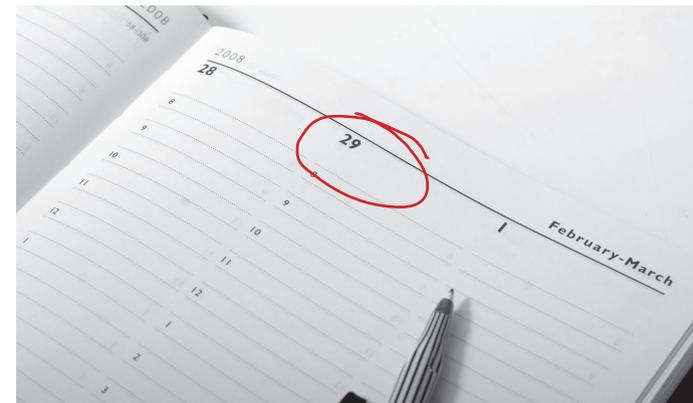
Did you know the roof of a house literally sheds thousands of gallons every rain event? That water can be harvested and used to help water your lawn, plants, and gardens. But all too often, that water rushes into our stormwater system and ultimately to our streams, leading to increased flow that eats away at the stream bed, causing erosion, siltation and flash flooding. Rain barrels are not a new idea, but constructing them and installing them on your house may seem like a lot of work, when in reality, it is fairly simple. Join us this April in the Community and Events Center to learn about rain barrels, different types and sizes and installation for your house.

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 need to be picked up. It also verifies that 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 1st, 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!

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR BUILDING PERMIT

Have a project on your to do list around the house? If you plan to do any remodeling or make additions to your home, most likely you need a building permit from the City of Windsor Heights. Building permits are important so that the city can insure any work done in a home in the city is done up to the most current building code. Examples of work that need a building permit include any electrical and plumbing work and anything that will add square footage to a structure. Decks, fences and signs also require building permits. It is always better to ask if you need a permit than to do the work without a permit and find out later you needed one, which may result in a fine from the city. Please call Sheena Danzer, the City Inspector, at 279-3662 with any questions or email at sdanzer@windsorheights.org.



SPECIAL WINTER CLASSES BOOST CREATIVITY

Registration is now being taken for two classes offered at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center.

Right Brain Journaling (\$35.00) ~ February 27th, March 5th, 12, 7 – 9 p.m.

Learn a new way to journal that is fun and easy. Use it to solve problems, expand your creative side and pursue your dreams in a relaxed and supportive environment. No writing experience necessary. Just come prepared to try new ideas and share your creative spirit with others.

Colored Pencil Drawing (\$44.00) ~ February 27th, March 5th, 12th, 1 – 3 p.m.

Have fun and try using colored pencils and the new watercolor pencils for a day of interesting experience in drawing with color. A small finished piece will be completed in class. No prior artistic or drawing experience is necessary. All materials provided.

Artist and educator Barbara Vaske leads these classes. Barb is a 4th generation Iowan and from age 5 knew she wanted to be an artist. She received her BA in Art from the University of Northern Iowa and her Master's degree from the prestigious California College of Arts and Crafts. A former art professor at Iowa State University, Barb has managed art galleries in both Los Angeles and Des Moines. Currently she is the director of the Ankeny Art Center. Her artwork has been exhibited both nationally and internationally as well as in galleries and universities throughout Iowa.

For more information, go to www.windsorheights.org. To sign up, e-mail, tlevine@windsorheights.org or call 645-6821.

HAVE A HIDDEN TALENT OR SPECIAL SKILL?

The Windsor Heights Community and Events Center not only hosts July 4th, Oktoberfest, weddings and birthday parties, we also strive to offer educational and informative sessions for our citizens and the entire Des Moines Metro. Do you have a special skill or hidden talent you would like to share? The Community and Events Center currently hosts yoga and journaling classes. Help improve your community and offer to teach a class. All classes are subject to availability of the building. Please contact Tracy Levine at tlevine@windsorheights.org for more information.

LEAP INTO SPRING OPEN HOUSE

It is the leap year and the City of Windsor Heights wants you to enjoy this extra day with an extra evening of food, fun and festivities. Come celebrate and tour the new Windsor Heights Community & Events Center, beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 29th and continuing to 8 p.m., located at 6900 School Street, Colby Park.

Planned is a budding line up of fresh activities including a number of artists on hand to demonstrate their Spring creations including metal garden art, terrariums, Ukrainian eggs and more. Special guests also include Windsor Heights resident Darren Fife who will be building a rain barrel.

In the spirit of fresh beginnings, a wine and cheese pairing will be offered, emphasizing lighter, more elegant styles and sponsored by Wine and Spirits Gallery and Hy-Vee. Other hors d'oeuvres will be available along with a cash bar. So why not celebrate the fact there's one more day on the calendar this year for a little extra fun in Windsor Heights?

Admission is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at the City Hall in Windsor Heights, 1133 – 66th Street, Windsor Heights. Tickets purchased at City Hall by February 28th get a discounted price of \$5. For more information, go to www.windsorheights.org or call 645-6821. It promises to be a treat.

Windsor Heights Community & Events Center
6900 School Street ~ Colby Park
Wine / Cheese Tasting, Hors d'Oeuvres
Budding line up of Artists Demonstrating Spring Pieces
Tickets available at Windsor Heights City Hall
1133 – 66th Street ~ Windsor Heights
www.windsorheights.org ~ 645-6821