



Windsor Wave

Pass it on • "Wave" to a Friend

JANUARY 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.

WINDSOR HEIGHTS VALUES SUSTAINABILITY

As a community completely surrounded by other cities, we simply cannot grow our borders to expand our city. Instead, we have to improve everything we have. An important step towards a healthy, sustainable community is educating our citizens on the efforts the city has undertaken to become more green. In addition, individuals can do a tremendous amount themselves to make their own home more green. We will continue our series in February.

3E (Electrical Engineering and Equipment Company) based in Windsor Heights, will be presenting on different types of lighting, occupancy sensors, etc available and how evolving technology can be used in a person's residential home to save electrical costs and help the environment. Specific information on how up-front costs can be negated by the significant long term energy cost savings will be available. Please join us at 6 p.m. in the Community and Events Center of February 16th for this informative presentation.

WANT YOUR SHARE OF \$150,000?

The S.O.S. (Save Our Sewers) program offers partially forgivable loans to property owners who need to make upgrades and replace their sanitary sewer lines. If this money is not used, it may not be available in the future. The loans are up to 50 percent forgivable, depending on property owners' income levels. 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 limited 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, meaning it is important to act quickly.

Visit www.windsorheights.org for more information. For more details about the financing your repairs, you can call the Neighborhood Finance Corporation at 515-246-0010. As always, feel free to call City Hall at 515-279-3662 if you have any additional questions.

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 be picked up. It also verifies 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 1, so license your pet as soon as possible. Pets must have proof of their current rabies vaccination from their vet. Registration forms will be on the city website or you can stop into city hall and license your pet today!

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, the fire 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.

WINDSOR WAVE EMAIL NEWSLETTER

It is easier than ever to get updates and news from the City of Windsor Heights. In addition to our monthly newsletters found in the water bill and the Windsor Heights Living Magazine, you can sign up to get email updates, known as the Windsor Wave, sent directly to you. This is the best way to get up-to-date updates on things like special events, council meetings, etc. In addition, emails are sent out when things like the snow ordinance goes into effect. You can sign up for the Windsor Wave at www.windsorheights.org/emailsingup.htm.

In addition, you can get updates from the city by following us at Twitter or visiting our Facebook page. Windsor Heights has one of the most comprehensive and up-to-date open communications with our citizens and businesses and we appreciate everyone who participates in this open process.

START YOUR TRAINING!

Windsor Heights Mini-Marathon will be here before you know it! Runners and walkers alike are invited to participate in this year's Windsor Heights Annual Mini-Marathon (WHAMM) on Saturday, May 19th at 8 a.m. Whether you're novice running and want to run the 5k or are training for the Dam to Dam race and want to run the 10k, the run is both challenging and rewarding alike. Registration for the run will open later this year, but now is the time to start training. All proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

CITIZEN BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING

March is almost here again, which means the City of Windsor Heights will soon review and approve a city budget for the next fiscal year. The city budget gets approved every year in March and is effective the following July 1. 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 year. Council committees are currently reviewing staff suggestions for the next fiscal year and the budget will be presented publicly on February 20th at the Council meeting. Additionally, on February 25 at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers, the city will have a public information meeting where the City Administrator will walk through the budget with citizens and answer questions. There will also be a formal public hearing tentatively scheduled for March 5 at 6 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/emailsingup.htm> so you receive notices regarding the public input and public hearings.

BEST PRACTICE ALERT: STREET SWEEPING

The Windsor Heights City Council recently completed the first year of an agreement with the City of West Des Moines for street sweeping. The City previously contracted for street sweeping services with a private contractor and the average annual cost to approximately \$18,151.

Staff worked with the City of West Des Moines staff to develop a 28E agreement for street sweeping services. The City of West Des Moines has newer equipment than was used by the private contractor and has agreed to handle sweeping activities. Our first year cost were \$12,730, providing a significant savings. The street sweeping is paid for by stormwater fees as the items removed from the street help keep our stormwater lines clear and freely operating.

JOIN THE WINDSOR HEIGHTS SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP!

Do you like July 4th, Oktoberfest, Movies in the Park? Event planning requires a full range of skills including organization, communication, following a budget, implementing a plan – all important. We value your input as a member of the Windsor Heights Special Events Committee. In addition to the events, the Community & Event Center is directly under the auspices of this Committee..as is the marketing. So, don't delay. Should you be interested, the Committee meets monthly on the 2nd Monday from 5:15 – 6:30 pm. Give Tracy a call at 645-6821 or e-mail her at tlevine@windsorheights.org

SAVE THE DATE FOR A VERY FUN ELEAPEST PARTY!

Since Leap Year comes around every four years, we are going to celebrate at the Windsor Heights Community Center. Save the evening of February 29 for dinner and activities. Reasonable cost.

Anyone with a February 29 birthday, please contact Tracy at 645-6821 or tlevine@windsorheights.org. We are trying to round up everyone who shares this special Leap Year birthday.

MISS WONDERLAND WINNERS

Congratulations go to the winners of the Miss Wonderland Pageant!



Little Miss: **Ardianna Johnson** of Des Moines, sponsored by Holly Johnson



Jr. Miss: **Victoria Monson** of Des Moines, sponsored by Caroline Monson and The Bridal Connection in Ankeny



Miss: **Jeena Lynch** of Jessup, sponsored by Jay Lynch and Crystal Ford