



Windsor Wave

Pass it on ■ "Wave" to a Friend

FEBRUARY 2011

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.

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 21 at the Council meeting. Additionally, on February 26 at 11am 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 7 at 6:00pm 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.

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.

- Reminders:
- Please submit the form at least one week before you leave. This allows our staff to distribute the information to the Police Officers on patrol.
 - Complete all fields in the form as completely as possible.
 - Always include emergency contact information

To sign up to have your home checked while on vacation, visit www.windsorheights.org

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER!

Whether you remove snow yourself or pay a local contractor, please be mindful of where that snow is pushed or blown. Please let your contractor know that snow is not to be pushed across the street to a neighbor's yard or blown or pushed into the road. That only causes more snow that has to be pushed by the public works department and can cause a public safety issue. Whenever possible, please keep snow on your own private property.

FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENTS, MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, DON'T FORGET THE PERFECT SETTINGS. HERE IN WINDSOR HEIGHTS, THE HEART OF IT ALL!

Colby Park

6900 School Street

- Picnic Facilities
- Outdoor Performance Pavilion
- Playground
- Softball Diamond

Lion's Park

6500 University Avenue

- Picnic Facilities
- Band Shell
- Playground

Community & Events Center

6900 School Street

- Meeting Rooms
- Classrooms
- Community Room with Kitchens

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 5-7pm. 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.

STORMWATER RATE STRUCTURE CHANGING FOR AREA BUSINESSES.

During recent discussions regarding the Windsor Heights stormwater utility, the City Council directed staff to evaluate the Windsor Heights' stormwater rate structure for commercial businesses. After review by the Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee, the resulting ordinance, which passed on January 10th, consolidated the number of commercial stormwater categories from four to three, to simplify the structure and classify properties more accurately. Following is a table comparing three of the current four categories of similarly-situated properties. As you can see, the Windsor heights rate is extremely competitive.

	Windsor Heights	WDM	DM
(commercial-major)	\$340.00	\$743.75	\$2,900.00
(commercial-large)	\$85.00	\$272.00	\$631.17
(commercial-small)	\$29.75	\$59.50	\$133.00

The change from four rate categories to three and the change in definitions would result in some realignment of properties into different rate categories, to more accurately reflect the property's effect on stormwater issues. Some properties will not be affected, but properties that were previously in the "Commercial-Small" category will be considered a "Type 1" property. The monthly rates for the categories would be as follows:

- Type 1: \$51.00 (same as current Commercial-Medium);
- Type 2: \$85.00 (same as current Commercial-Large); and
- Type 3: \$340 (same as current Commercial-Major)

In conducting research, staff identified a few properties that had been misclassified. The City is planning to send individual notifications to those properties whose rates will increase by more than the \$21.25 difference between the old "Commercial-Small" category and the new "Type 1" category. Residential rates were adjusted in April and this ordinance did not affect residential rates.

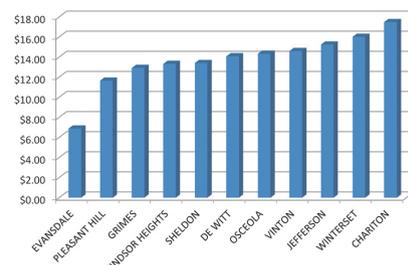
MOODY'S ASSIGNS Aa2 RATING TO CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS:

Moody's Investors Service has assigned an Aa2 rating to the City of Windsor Heights. As part of a current bond offering, Windsor Heights was evaluated by Moody's Investment Services. Moody's has affirmed the city's outstanding Aa2 general obligation rating, which applies to \$14.4 million of general obligation unlimited tax debt. The Aa2 rating is the highest possible rating a city the size of Windsor Heights can obtain.

The Aa2 rating reflects the city's modestly sized tax base favorably located within the Des Moines metropolitan area and Moody's expectations for a continued strong financial position benefiting from increasing operating reserve levels. Moody's expects the city's financial operations to remain stable due to conservative management and ample reserves. The city ended fiscal 2009 with a General Fund cash balance of \$1.6 million (or a significant 59.4% of General Fund revenues). Fiscal 2009 closed with a slight decrease in reserves compared to prior years, but this resulted primarily from funding capital projects. Fiscal 2010 figures indicate the city's ending reserve increased to \$1.7 million, or 58.8% of General Fund revenues. The city maintains a reserve target of 25% of budgeted expenditures, and management reports a plan to maintain levels above 50% over the near term.

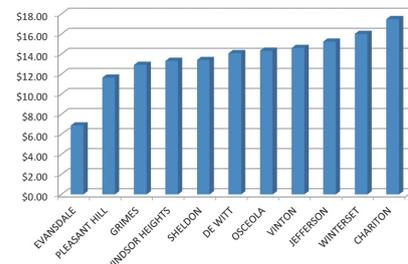
Please see www.moody.com for full rating information.

So how does the Windsor Heights tax rate compare to our peer cities?



The chart to the left shows the levy tax rate for fiscal year 2011 for cities across the state with similar population to Windsor Heights.

This chart shows the levy tax rate for fiscal year 2011 for cities across the state with similar valuation to Windsor Heights.



As you can see, Windsor Heights is comparable to almost every city.

DEER HUNTING

Windsor Heights has been proactively removing deer from the city. This year eight does were harvested, which can result in hundreds of fewer deer in our city and on our streets and property over the next several years. Deer cause thousands of dollars in damage every year, from car deer accidents to the damaged causes to landscaping. The city will continue to work with citizens and the DNR over the upcoming years to limit the size of the herd living within the city. All the deer harvested were donated to the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. HUSH is a cooperative effort among deer hunters, the Food Bank of Iowa, meat lockers and the Iowa DNR to provide high-quality protein many Iowans are lacking in their diet.



EXISTING HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT LUNCHEON LEARNS

Begins Thursday, February 17, 11:30am-1:00pm
The six-part series addresses a specific area of the home and includes 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 and Location: Each workshop takes place from 11:30am to 1:00pm (lunch is included) at the Windsor Heights Community Center located at 6900 School Street in Windsor Heights.
- Fee: \$10 Center On Sustainable Communities Members / \$20 Non-Members
- Registration: Online at icosc.com, or contact Leslie Berckes at 515-707-2787 or leslie@icosc.com.