



# Windsor Wave

Pass it on ■ “Wave” to a Friend

JANUARY 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.

## WINDSOR HEIGHTS TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO SOON CHANGE

Currently, all Windsor Heights traffic lights are traditional incandescent inefficient light bulbs. The Windsor Heights City Council recently approved the retrofit and conversion to all LED traffic lights, with the help from the Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grant program approved in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Federal Stimulus Bill).

By retrofitting the traffic lights with LED traffic lights, the city will save almost \$8,000 a year in electricity costs. This doesn't take into account the savings from almost weekly replacement bulbs that have to be replaced now because the incandescent lights frequently burn out, while the LED lights have a 5 year warrant and are expected to last much longer.

Once the LED traffic lights arrive, please be mindful of the Public Works crew as they work on the various intersections to replace the lights.

## 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 21st at 8 am. 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.

## 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 are on the city's website or you can stop into city hall and license your pet today!

## INVITATION TO JOIN THE WINDSOR HEIGHTS SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE, THE “HAPPENING” PLACE TO SERVE

Do you like special events? 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 newly opened 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](mailto:tlevine@windsorheights.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE WINDSOR HEIGHTS FOUNDATION HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST!

The Windsor Heights Foundation has announced the winners of the annual Windsor Heights Holiday Lighting contest.

Best of the Best: Gregory and Karol Mauk, 1809 79th St.

District #2 winner: De Anne Seidel-Sorensen, 7014 Franklin

District #3: Ronald and Susan Stuphin, 2009 69th St.

District #4: Jon Lundman, 6711 Colby

District #5: Sheila Videbeck, 6901 Forest Ct.

District #6: John and Airene Davis, 1140 68th St.

Best door: Maher residence, 1330 64h St.

Each of the district winners received a photo and a \$50 prize; Best of the Best received \$100. In a new contest this year, the Best Door award was a photo and \$25.

The Windsor Heights Foundation, which sponsors the contest, wishes to thank all Windsor Heights residents who decorated their homes. There were more decorated than in the past, many especially beautiful, making the judging decisions more difficult.

## The Storm Drain to Stream Connection

What happens to the rainfall that runs off driveways, parking lots, rooftops, and streets, and goes into the storm drains? A common misperception is that it is conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant, where it is then treated and released to a local stream, river or lake. The fact is, in almost all cases it is discharged untreated, directly into local streams and lakes. The major concern with this is excess fertilizers and pesticides, motor vehicle fluids and sediment that accumulate on driveways, parking lots and streets. These pollutants are then carried along with the rainfall runoff and move as storm water through underground pipes directly to streams. These contaminants can severely pollute and impair our local waterways.

What can you do to change this situation? There are a number of key things that you can do with your own property. The starting point is to soak up as much of the rainfall on your property as you can, so that it doesn't runoff into the street.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Install a rain garden to capture rooftop rain, rain barrels will do the trick too.
- Restore the health of your lawn by aerating and then apply a thin (1/4-1/2") layer of compost and seed
- Use fertilizers containing “0” phosphorus (the middle number on the fertilizer bag indicates the quantity of phosphorus). Sweep up any fertilizer that is spread onto side walks, driveways or streets and spread it back on the lawn.
- Use native landscaping and native turf in your yard.



We all need to protect and improve the water quality in our streams and lakes. Please think about doing your part!

Visit [www.iowastormwater.org](http://www.iowastormwater.org) to learn more about storm water.

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off impervious surfaces like roads, buildings, and compacted soils. Stormwater runoff is collected and conveyed through storm sewers directly into streams, rivers, and lakes without being treated.

## The Problem

Pollutants accumulate on impervious surfaces between rainfall events. Frequent, small rains wash pollutants into streams, rivers, and lakes. These pollutants negatively impact water quality.

As communities grow, impervious areas increase. Larger amounts of impervious surfaces cause the volume and rate of stormwater runoff to increase. This can result in flooding, stream channel degradation, and increased water pollution in our surface waters.

## Stormwater Pollutants

- Sediment from construction sites
- Pesticides and nutrients from lawns, parks, and roadsides
- Bacteria from pet waste
- Oil and grease from car leaks, gas stations, and industrial areas
- Trash such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles
- Illegally dumped pollutants
- Thermal impacts from sun-heated impervious surfaces
- Salt and sand from snow and ice control applications
- Illicit connections to storm sewers



## Stormwater Management

The traditional approach to stormwater management focuses primarily on flood control. Today, our city is required to manage for both water quality and quantity by using practices that infiltrate more rainfall and reduce the volume of stormwater runoff.

## Stormwater Regulations in Our City

To comply with federal regulations, our city is required to implement and maintain a stormwater management program. Some requirements include:

1. Managing stormwater runoff for water quality protection,
2. Reducing sediment loss from construction sites,
3. Developing ordinances to meet program goals,
4. Inspecting storm drain outlets for unwanted discharges, and
5. Providing public education and involvement.

## Awareness and Responsibility

Daily activities can impact water quality. Most rainfall drains untreated to streams and lakes through storm drains in neighborhoods. There are many ways you can prevent stormwater pollution:

1. Wash your car at a carwash or on the lawn, not the driveway,
2. Re-direct roof drains to gardens or other vegetated areas,
3. Properly dispose of all hazardous household waste,
4. Minimize use of fertilizers, and
5. Clean up after your pets.

## 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

JERRY SULLIVAN, MAYOR • DIANA WILLITS, COUNCIL MEMBER • DAVE JENISON, COUNCIL MEMBER

CHARLENE BUTZ, COUNCIL MEMBER • BETTY GLOVER, COUNCIL MEMBER • STEVE PETERSON, COUNCIL MEMBER