









### COMMUNITY NEWS July 2023

### **Important Numbers**

City Hall 515-279-3662 Public Safety 515-277-4453 Emergencies 911

## What's Inside

- Vacation House Watch
- Library Happenings
- Summer in the Heights
- 73rd Street Project Open House
- Don't Allow Animals At Large
- Nights in the Heights Schedule
- Now Hiring
- Council Recap

# Calendar of Events

July 11

• 7 PM Nights in the Heights:

July 14

 10:15 AM Storytime in the Park

July 17

6 PM City Council Meeting

July 18

7 PM Nights in the Heights



Scan QR Code for more events!

## **Welcome to Windsor Heights**

We're very excited to announce the next City Administrator of Windsor Heights, Adam Plagge. He is an Iowa native who has previously lived and worked in Waverly, Fairfield, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

For the past seven years he has served as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Johnston leading development initiatives and Merle Hay Road corridor improvements. He holds master degrees in urban planning as well as business administration from the University of Iowa.



Plagge states, "I am humbled to have been given this opportunity, as a resident and active member of the Beaverdale neighborhood, I have a great appreciation for the close-knit community of Windsor Heights and the pride residents have in their homes and City. I look forward to serving the community and helping continue to make Windsor Heights a great place to call home."

Adam and his wife Katie have a two-and-a-half-year-old son and are expecting twins in July, he plans to begin his work for the City on August 14th.





## Keep Your Home Safe While You're Away

Did you know that you can request a vacation house check from the Windsor Heights Police Department? Well, if you didn't know, you can!

Visit the City's website windsorheights.org and search for the vacation house watch (or scan the QR Code). Input your information and submit it.

While we're are talking vacation houses, below are some great crime prevention tips that can help your home become a less desirable target for burglary.

- Check out your residence. Look around the exterior for ways a person could gain entry into your home, sliding glass doors, window air conditioners that could be removed, etc.
- Lock your doors and windows!
- Don't hide a key. Instead try giving a spare key to a trusted neighbor or family member. Ask if they can also periodically check on your house while you are gone.
- Consider leaving the lights or the radio on a timer while you're away to give the illusion that someone is there.
- Lock your vehicles if parked outside, especially if you have a garage door opener inside your car or truck.
- Try and keep valuables out of sight. If possible, throwaway/recycle boxes from electronic or big item purchases yourself. Leaving them on the curb is advertising to would be burglars. Secure jewelry, cash, and other valuables in a safe deposit box.
- Take photos of your furniture, valuables, and the rooms in your house. Also, take
  pictures of the serial and model numbers of high dollar electronics, bicycles, and other
  equipment. This can help identify items in the event of theft or damage.
- Don't advertise that you are gone. Stop the mail and newspapers. Plan for yard work (e.g., mowing and snow removal). Wait to post pictures of your vacation on social media until you arrive back.



Remember to notify us if you come back early.

# See the Prairie Roots Project at Franklin Avenue Library

A new permanent display at Des Moines Public Library's Franklin Avenue branch will educate library visitors on and spread awareness of the importance of native perennial plants in rural and urban lowa landscapes. Through a partnership with Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department, Franklin Avenue Library received a large prairie root specimen from the University of Northern Iowa's Tallgrass Prairie Center.

The specimen now at Franklin Avenue Library, 5000 Franklin Ave, is the first to ever be installed at a public

library. The large preserved root specimen, an intertwined prairie rose and switchgrass root system, sits inside a custom-built 11-foot-tall enclosure inside the library's main reading room. Franklin Avenue Library will highlight the display and the importance of prairie preservation with new books, displays, nature kits for kids and adults, and free public programs for all ages.

Prairie ecosystems were a part of lowa's natural heritage for thousands of years, at one point making up 80 percent of land in what is now lowa. Today, prairie makes up only one-tenth of 1 percent of lowa land. Reintroducing these plants creates more sustainable environments and habitats.

For more information on the display, plus special programs, book bundles, and nature kits developed as around native prairies, go to dmpl.org/prairie-roots.



# Summer in the Heights

Summer has arrived and so have the many opportunities to get outside and celebrate with neighbors. Thank you to everyone who has made it out to the great events we've held in Colby Park so far. We're excited to keep the fun going all year long including more Movies in the Park, Fall Fest, Windsor Wonderland, and more!



The Bubbler presented by Des Moines Performing Arts



Touch a Truck



Storytime in the Park with Des Moines Public Library





Per City Code 55.04 Section 1, no owner of any dog, cat or other animal shall allow or permit such animal to run at large.

Most may assume that this would apply to dogs only, but it does apply to all pets.

While your cat may enjoy being outside they are put at greater risks such as exposure to diseases, parasites as well as animal attacks or getting hit by a car.

If your cat finds the out doors purfect, leash up and take them on a walk!



#### We Want to Hear From You!

The City of Windsor Heights is preparing for the reconstruction of 73rd Street from University Avenue to Wilshire Blvd starting in the spring of 2024. As part of the design process, we will be hosting a resident meeting from 5 - 7 PM on July 19th at the Colby Park Community Center located at 6900 School Street.

The design team will be available to discuss the proposed layout for public viewing and to answer any questions. There is no formal presentation, so feel free to stop by any time. All ages are welcome.

If you are unable to attend but would like to provide input on the design of the project, please contact Bolton & Menk at 515-259-9190 ext 2786 or justin.ernst@bolton-menk.com.

# How's Our Newsletter?

Share your comments and suggestions or ask a question! Email Deputy City Clerk Adam Strait at astrait@ windsorheights.org or call 515-279-3662



# Nights in the Heights 2023 Free Summer Concert Series

Colby Park, Windsor Heights



Join us for live music, food trucks, and free fun!
For more information:
www.windsorheightsfoundation.org
www.facebook.com/WindsorHeightsIAFoundation



#### **MISSION**

The mission of the Windsor Heights Foundation is to develop projects and programs that enrich and enhance the lives of its residents and those in neighboring communities.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

The Windsor Heights Foundation welcomes your support! Get involved in any one of our annual events:

> Ice Cream Social Nights in the Heights Light the Heights

Your contributions will help support community activities and projects, which remind us why we live in a city in "the heart of it all."





www.facebook.com/ WindsorHeightsIAFoundation

www.windsorheightsfoundation.org

# NOW HIRING

We're currently accepting applications for the following positions.

Deputy City Clerk · Police Officer Firefighter · EMT · Paramedic Scan the QR code to learn more!



# 6/5/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Held Public Hearing and First Reading on Ordinance No. 23-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 55 of the Code of Ordinances for Windsor Heights Related to the Types and Numbers of Animals Permitted
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-37 A Resolution Authorizing the City of Windsor Heights, Iowa to Submit Sites to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-38 A Resolution Approving End of Year FY23 Balance Transfers
- Approved Pay Request No. 1 Public Safety Parking Lot Improvements, Pay Request No. 1 2023 PCC Patching Project, and Pay Request No. 1 - 2023 HMA Resurfacing Project

# 6/19/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved Ordinance No. 23-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 55 of the Code of Ordinances for Windsor Heights Related to the Types and Numbers of Animals Permitted. The amendment lists the following as not allowed roosters, geese, guineafowl, and peacocks.
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-40 A Resolution Approving an Employment Agreement for the Next City Administrator for the City of Windsor Heights. The next City Administrator is Adam Plagge
- Approved Pay Request 1 68th Street Reconstruction and Pay Request 2 HMA Resurfacing Project 2023