



## COMMUNITY NEWS August 2023

### Important Numbers

**City Hall** 515-279-3662

**Public Safety** 515-277-4453

**Emergencies** 911

### What's Inside

- Meet our New Police Officers
- Library Happenings
- Stormwater Best Management Program
- Save Our Sewers Program
- Metro Home Improvement Program
- Grow Solar Program
- Code Reminders
- Strategic Vision Focus Group

### Calendar of Events

August 7

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

August 8

- 6 PM Grow Solar Polk County - Community Center

August 21

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

September 1

- 7:45 PM Movies in the Park

### Fall Fest Returns!

Save the date for free fun for the entire family! You don't want to miss out on Windsor Heights Fall Festival, October 6 and 7.

Movies in the Park will kick off Fall Fest with a showing of the classic Hocus Pocus on October 6.

October 7 will be filled with fall fun including the Fall Fest parade, WHAMM 5k, fireworks, Firefighter's Association Annual Pancake Breakfast, and more! Keep an eye on [windsorheightsfallfestival.com](http://windsorheightsfallfestival.com) for a full schedule of events!



Scan the QR code and register for WHAMM by September 1 for early bird pricing!



Disney  
**ZOOTOPIA**  
**SEPTEMBER 1ST**

**JOIN US AT 7:15PM**  
**MOVIE STARTS AT 7:45PM**



Scan QR  
Code  
for more  
events!



1145 66th St, Suite 1  
Windsor Heights, IA 50324

The Police Department is pleased to introduce two new officers: Ma'Kel Ingram and Cody Brown. Ma'Kel started on April 24 and Cody on May 22, 2023.

Officer Ingram was born in Dothan, Alabama. He graduated from Northview High School in 2019. Ma'Kel moved to Iowa in the summer of 2022 to attend the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). At a young age, Officer Ingram knew he wanted to work in law enforcement. He met WHPD officers at a job fair and immediately submitted his application for police officer. Officer Ingram's mentor growing up was a police officer. "I always wanted to follow in his footsteps," said Ma'Kel. "I love being apart of the Windsor Heights Community and Police Department. Working with everyone has been amazing. I can't wait to further my career."



In his spare time, Officer Ingram likes to spend time with family, go mudding (driving an ATV through mudded area), fishing, camping and play basketball.



Officer Brown grew up in Rockwell, Iowa in a family passionate about public service. His mother worked as a nurse in Mason City and a paramedic for the Rockwell EMS. His father was a Deputy Sheriff for the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office. Cody attended Rockwell-Swaledale High School, graduating in 2007. After graduating, Cody attended the North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) before enlisting in the US Navy in August of 2009. Cody returned home from military service in July of 2011. He later completed an AA degree at NIACC, received a BA from Buena Vista University in 2015, and completed a Master of Arts program in 2021.

Officer Brown said he chose Windsor Heights "because of the close-knit community feel, the opportunity for advancement, and to experience a wider range of law enforcement activities."

Both officers are excited to work and serve the Windsor Heights Community.

## AT YOUR LIBRARY: AUGUST 2023

**Franklin Avenue Library's Repair Café**

**Sunday, August 27, 1-4:30 PM | Franklin Avenue Library, 5000 Franklin Ave.**

Expert volunteers will help fix your item or refer you to someone who can at our first Repair Café. The free event aims to reduce waste, share tools and resources, and help build self-reliance skills in our community. Among the items you can bring: bicycles, small motor home tools (mowers, snowblowers, etc), small home and kitchen appliances (blenders, mixers, fans, lamps, etc), clothing to be mended, and small electronics (computers, gaming consoles, etc). If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please e-mail [dsmrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:dsmrepaircafe@gmail.com).



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 | 1-4:30 PM**  
**FRANKLIN AVENUE LIBRARY**

**Fall Author Series: James Rollins**

**Wednesday, August 16, 7 PM | Central Library, 1000 Grand Ave.**

James Rollins is the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of thrillers that have sold tens of millions of copies. His latest book in his popular Sigma Force series, *Tides of Fire* (release date: August 15), tells the story of an international research station in the Coral Sea that comes under siege during a geological disaster. To stop the world from burning, it's up to Sigma Force to uncover a secret buried at the heart of our planet. Beaverdale Books will sell books onsite, and Rollins will sign books after the program.

Don't forget that the Franklin Avenue Library serves as a Polk County Cooling Center during open hours in the summer months. If you need a cool place to spend time, stop by and use a public computer, or just sit and read during those hot summer days.

The City of Windsor Heights may help you pay for part of your yard project if it helps improve surface water quality or reduce surface runoff.

The City of Windsor Heights is dedicated to smart stormwater management. The City aims to increase both water quality and water quantity through the implementation of stormwater best management practices (BMP's). Stormwater is water from rain, snowmelt, and surface drainage that runs off impervious surfaces such as paved surfaces, roofs, and compacted lawns.



## Stormwater Best Management Program

\* 75% Reimbursed

- Rain Gardens
- Rain Barrels
- Soil Quality Restoration
- Native Planting

## We Want to Help You Improve Your Home!

Full details and how to apply to these programs is at [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org). Look for Home Improvement Benefits under the Residents menu or call City Hall at 515-279-3662!



Windsor Heights has an aging sanitary sewer infrastructure. Because sewer lines are old, they can crack and allow groundwater to infiltrate into them. We all have to work together to bring the infrastructure up to date if we are to prevent more basements from flooding and preserve our clean drinking water. That is why we implemented the public-private program we refer to as, S.O.S., or "Save Our Sewers".

The S.O.S. program offers partially forgivable loans to property owners who need to make upgrades. 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.

The Metro Home Improvement Program is a collaborative effort of eight metro cities with the purpose to preserve affordable housing in these communities. The participating cities are Ankeny, Altoona, Bondurant, Grimes, Polk City, Urbandale, West Des Moines and Windsor Heights. The program has a Management Committee, consisting of one representative from each city, which oversees the policy decisions of the program.



Assistance is for housing repairs and correcting code violations. The awards are in the form of a five-year forgivable loan to eligible households with income less than 80% of the area median income. The Metro Home Improvement Program is administered by the City of West Des Moines. The program is funded through the participating cities and the Polk County Housing Trust Fund.

## How's Our Newsletter?

Share your comments and suggestions or ask a question! Email City Clerk Adam Strait at [astrait@windsorheights.org](mailto:astrait@windsorheights.org) or call 515-279-3662

## Save on Youth Soccer with the Y

The Y's Youth Soccer is designed for the beginner who wants to develop as a person and a player, all while having fun! Open to those (5-10 years old), we focus on the fundamentals of the game through exciting drills and games which will help hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and soccer skills. Games are located at Colby Park.



The YMCA is offering \$20.00 off for Windsor Heights residents. Call the front desk at 515-224-1888 for more information and to register. Deadline is August 21.

## Help Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful

Windsor Heights is a great place to live, and your help is needed in keeping it clean, safe and beautiful. Here some reminders of some common code violations to keep in mind.

- Keep your lawn mowed and free of trash and junk
- Clean up after your pets and keep them on leashes
- Keep your vehicles parked on pavement and not grass

If you notice a concern around town, let us know by calling City Hall at 515-279-3662 or submitting it online at [windsorheights.org](https://windsorheights.org) and selecting "Report a Concern" under the Residents menu. Be aware that City Officials can only inspect code violations from public spaces. If the concern can not be viewed from the street or sidewalk, please include a picture with your submission.



Join us at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Tuesday, August 8 at 6 PM for a free solar power hour to learn about the basics of solar energy, how it can save you money, and how it benefits your community. Find out how our group buy program makes going solar easier and more affordable.

Can't make it, but still want to learn about your solar options? Visit [growsolar.org/polk-county](https://growsolar.org/polk-county) or email [info@gowsolar.org](mailto:info@gowsolar.org).

## We Want to Hear What You Have to Say!

The City is in the final stages of its strategic visioning plan and it needs your help!

Drake University's Robert D. and Billie Ray Center and 2 THE TOP will be holding resident focus groups on August 23rd at 11:30 AM and 5:30 PM at the Windsor Heights Community Center to solicit feedback on the City's strategic vision.

To sign up, scan the QR code below. Space is limited!



## 7/17/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved Resolution No. 2023-41 - A Resolution Approving the City Administrator's Appointment of Adam Strait to the Position of City Clerk
- Tabled Consideration of Letters of Agreement Between DART for the Installation and Maintenance of Transit Bus Shelters near 7101 University Ave and 6580 University Ave
- Approved Pay Request 2 - 68th Street Reconstruction, Pay Request 2 - Public Safety Parking Lot Improvements, and Pay Request 3 - 2023 HMA Resurfacing Project
- Discussed Beggars' Night. Will Take Final Action at the August 21 Regular Council Meeting to Allow Residents the Opportunity to Speak Directly with Council on When Beggars' Night Should Occur
- Approved Police Lieutenant Job Description