



COMMUNITY NEWS October 2023

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Beggars' Night Date
- Dog Park Temporarily Closed
- Library Happenings
- Sidewalk Improvement Grant
- City Vision Statement
- Veterans Day Event Registration
- Council Recap

Calendar of Events

October 16
 • 6 PM City Council Meeting

November 6
 • 6 PM City Council Meeting

November 10
 • 11:30 AM Veterans Day Celebration at Colby Park

November 20
 • 6 PM City Council Meeting

Firefighter Wish Comes to Life

On September 15, the Windsor Heights Fire Department had the pleasure of meeting James Meyer. James lives in the Windsor Heights community and has enjoyed fire trucks and firefighters for a long time! When he completed his chemo treatment a few years ago, James rang the bell on the Windsor Heights fire truck to celebrate. Part of James' Make-a-Wish was to have a tour of the Fire Department.

The fire department pulled out the red carpet for James. He was the Officer in Charge for the day, got to meet the crew and Ember the firehouse dog, hold the hose, and go for a ride in the engine. The fire department presented James with a personalized set of bunker gear. The Windsor Heights Police Department also gifted James with gear and let him turn on the lights and sirens on the police vehicle.

It was an honor for all involved to make James' wish come true.



Citizen of the Year Awarded



During the September 18 City Council meeting, Councilor Susan Skeries was awarded the Citizen of the Year award by the Urbandale and Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce.

Her dedication and passion for the City made her an excellent choice by the Chamber, as did as her tireless efforts chairing the Special Events committee and planning free family fun for the community.



Scan QR
 Code
 for more
 events!

WH WINDSOR HEIGHTS
 the heart of it all
 1145 66th St, Suite 1
 Windsor Heights, IA 50324

BEGGARS' NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

LAST SATURDAY OF OCTOBER



By Council action at the September 18 City Council meeting, Beggars' Night in Windsor Heights has officially been moved to the last Saturday of October.

This year's Beggars' Night will fall on Saturday, October 28. Beggars' Night will begin at 6 PM and end at 8 PM.

Thanks to everyone who weighed in through our survey or by writing in!



The Windsor Heights dog park is expected to be closed throughout October. Public Works is performing wood chip maintenance and replacing the fence around the park as well.

All work is weather-dependent. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes, but these upgrades are necessary for the park's longevity.

AT YOUR LIBRARY: AUGUST 2023

Featured event: Community Table Storytelling Festival!

Saturday, October 14 | Franklin Avenue Library, 5000 Franklin Ave.

The Des Moines Public Library's Community Table: Storytelling & Local Festival returns for its second year on Saturday, October 14 in and outside Franklin Avenue Library! Experience the oral tradition of storytelling throughout the day at the library as our featured storytellers share a diverse range of personal stories, folk tales and fairytales. Then explore the food festival, children's activities, and spooky stories sessions outside the library the parking lot and Franklin Field.

For a full storyteller lineup and schedule of events, go to dmpl.org/community-table

Save the Date: Margaret Renkl at DMPL!

Thursday, November 2, 6:30 PM | Franklin Avenue Library

The DMPL Fall Author Series concludes at 6:30 PM on Thursday, November 2 at Franklin Avenue Library with best-selling author and noted columnist Margaret Renkl. Her latest book, *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, will be released October 24. Her previous bestsellers include *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss*. She is also a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*. The program will be moderated by Joel Van Roekel of Des Moines Parks and Recreation. Beaverdale Books will sell copies of Renkl's books at the event, and the author will sign books, as well.





SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Sidewalks are an important part of making a community walkable and connecting neighbors. In order to make maintaining sidewalks more affordable, the City is rolling out the Sidewalk Improvement Grant for 50% of the cost for necessary improvements.

Scan the QR code to learn more and apply!



Properties without existing sidewalks are not required to install sidewalks as part of City Ordinance.

“Working together to build the best small city in the metro.”

-City of Windsor Heights' New Vision Statement

The City of Windsor Heights is uniquely positioned within the Des Moines metro. As a land-locked suburb, the community must think creatively about how to attract and retain businesses, customers, and residents as growth options will be required to be innovative and likely grass-roots efforts. In order to be proactive in learning and planning for the future, the city completed a visioning and data collection process to assist with future planning.

The visioning process was facilitated by J. Scott Raecker, Executive Director of The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University and Cassandra Halls, President of 2 THE TOP. The visioning process included multiple steps to capture input from the community, businesses, partners, peers, and others to help the Mayor and Council understand what direction is most important, allow for sharing of ideas, and accept constructive feedback.

The process also offered opportunities to share thoughts about quality of city services, parks, and what people like most about the community, along with greatest areas of concern and what is most important for Windsor Heights in the next 5 – 10 years.

The Mayor and Council worked together to analyze the results of the survey and understand what themes came forward from over 360 responses.

Mayor Jones shared “This process has been ongoing for over a year and has included multiple work sessions with council and staff, presentations by Scott and Cassandra, and a citywide survey that many residents responded to. Throughout this process we’ve worked to develop a greater understanding of the strengths, opportunities and challenges that our community faces. In shaping our vision, we relied on the results of the community survey.”

Project Snapshot:

- Launched the project 6/22/2022
- Assessed Mayor, City Council & Staff perspective
- Established Compact for Excellence in approaching the work
- Completed expansive survey of external stakeholders (citizens, businesses, nonprofits, regional partners, peers)
- Analyzed data, identified themes, assessed Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
- The Mayor and Council worked together with those findings to create the vision statement.

Project Timeline:

- Visioning Launch: 6/2/2022
- Issued Community and Staff Surveys: September and October, 2023
- Reviewed Community, External Stakeholder and Staff Survey Results: 2/23/2023
- Analyzed/Processed Community, External Stakeholder and Staff Survey Data: 3/29/2023
- Presented and Modified First Draft of the Vision Statement: 7/17/2023
- Hosted 2 Focus Groups to Review Survey Data and Vet Draft Vision Statement: 8/23/2023
- Presented Updated Vision Statement to City Council: 9/18/2023

How's Our Newsletter?

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



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."

The City of Windsor Heights is once again saying "Thank You" to our Veterans for their service at our annual Veterans Day luncheon. Veterans and their guests can register for the event by scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions, need assistance registering, or would like to volunteer, please email Councilor Susan Skeries at susan.skeries@windsorheights.org or call City Hall at 515-279-3662.

STAY CONNECTED



[www.facebook.com/
WindsorHeightsIAFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/WindsorHeightsIAFoundation)

www.windsorheightsfoundation.org

Looking for a space to host your holiday family gathering? The Windsor Heights community center in Colby Park is available for renting year round.



Scan the QR code or contact Deputy City Clerk Nate Leuthold at 515-645-6826 to learn more. Resident discounts available!

8/21/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Police Chief Pete Roth swore in Lieutenant's Michael Irlbeck and Chad Norris
- Windsor Heights Sister City representative Ricki King presented two gifts of art from the City's Sister City Kofu
- Council tabled the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 23-06 - An Ordinance Amending Chapters 165 through 177 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Windsor Heights Related to Zoning per staff recommendation
- Held Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 23-07 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 180.06 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Windsor Heights Related to Conditional Use Permit Standards for Approval
- Tiffany Menke of the Urbandale and Windsor Heights Chambers of Commerce presented councilor Susan Skeries with Citizen of the Year award
- Approved Moving Beggars Night to Last Saturday of October; this year's will take place on October 28
- Approved Resolution 2023-48 A Resolution Approving the Site Plan BBop's at 1105 73rd Street
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-50 A Resolution Approving the Preliminary Plat for Silverstar Carwash at 6300 Hickman Road
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-51 A Resolution Approving the Site Plan Silverstar Carwash at 6300 Hickman Road
- Approved DART Letters of Agreement Between DART for the Installation and Maintenance of Transit Bus Shelters near 7101 University Ave and 6580 University Ave