



## COMMUNITY NEWS November 2023

### Important Numbers

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

### What's Inside

- Fall Festival
- Yard Waste Pickup Ending for the Season
- Library Happenings
- Impact of Deicing Salt
- Free Gun Trigger Locks
- DART Bus Plus Service Update
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Council Recap

### Calendar of Events

November 20

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

December 1

- 7 PM Holiday Lights Judging

December 2

- 4 PM Windsor Wonderland
- 7:45 PM Movies in the Park: The Grinch

December 4

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

[Click Here for More Events](#)

**WINDSOR Wonderland**

Colby Park will come alive with the holiday spirit during Windsor Wonderland with FREE family fun on Saturday, December 2 from 4 to 9 PM! Bring the family out for free activities, hot chocolate, ice sculpting, carriage rides, and MORE, including a special visit from Santa!

**01 December**  
**Citywide Holiday Lights Contest**  
Judging Begins at 7 PM

**02 December**  
Events from 4 to 9 PM  
Colby Park

- **Gingerbread House Contest**
- **Carolers | Food Trucks**
- **Crafts | Ice Sculptor**
- **Hot Chocolate, Cider, and Treats**
- **4:15 Ugly Sweater Fun Run**
- **5 Horse Drawn Carriage Rides**
- **5:15 Tree Lighting Ceremony**
- **5:30 - 7:30 Santa Visit and Live Reindeer**
- **7:45 Movie: The Grinch**

[www.windsorwonderland.com](http://www.windsorwonderland.com)

Sign up for the fun run and gingerbread house contest at [www.windsorwonderland.com](http://www.windsorwonderland.com). Both are free to participate in!

**THE GRINCH**

**DECEMBER 2ND**

**AT WINDSOR WONDERLAND**

**MOVIE STARTS AT 7:45PM**

**FREE!**



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



## Fall Fest is Enjoyed by All

Thank you to all who came and enjoyed the music, games, food trucks, and more! An even grander thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and staff who made Fall Festival possible!



Safe Building will begin assuming electrical inspections in Windsor Heights from the Iowa Department of Inspections December 1st. The new fee for electrical inspections because of this change will be comparable to or cheaper than the current fee schedule, depending on the project size.

This change will also allow homeowners and contractors to complete their electrical inspection along with other inspections. Contact Deputy City Clerk Nate Leuthold at 515-645-6826 with any questions or email [nleuthold@windsorheights.org](mailto:nleuthold@windsorheights.org).

## AT YOUR LIBRARY

### Take the 30x30 Challenge!

Getting a pizza for reading books isn't just for school kids anymore! With our online 30x30 Challenge, you can enter for a chance to win free pizza from Gusto Pizza Bar. All you need to do is read 30 minutes a day, all 30 days of November. Learn more and take part in the contest by going to [dmpl.org/30x30](http://dmpl.org/30x30) or scanning the QR code.

### Featured events at Franklin Avenue Library:

#### Tending Iowa's Land: A Discussion on Moving Our State Toward Environmental Sustainability

**Monday, November 6, 6-8 PM**

Much of Iowa's self-sustaining prairie landscape has been transformed into agricultural lands that have lost their original resilience and health. How did this happen, and what can be done to restore and ensure the environmental health of both agricultural and natural lands? Join us for a panel discussion with contributors to the award-winning book, Tending Iowa's Land: Pathways to a Sustainable Future. The book considers challenges to Iowa's soils, flowing water, climate, and native biodiversity as an interacting whole, and proposes alternative futures beneficial to both nature and agriculture.

### Mindfulness Day

**Saturday, November 18, 10 AM-4 PM**

Spend the day at the library learning and practicing mindfulness techniques. Participate in any of these free sessions: Journaling to Heal at 10 AM, Mindful Eating at 11:30 AM, Zen Meditation at 1 PM, Crystal Singing Bowls at 2:30 PM.



## YARD WASTE COLLECTION IS LEAF-ING FOR THE SEASON



Curbside collection of yard waste through the Compost It! program will end for the season on the November 20 collection day. The program accepts small twigs and branches, leaves and lawn clippings, as well as any garden vegetation. Just avoid dirt, mulch, rocks, and food.

To have your yard waste collected until the end of the season, be sure to tag it, bag it, or wheel it:

- Tag it:** Brush bundles and store-brand bags require a green Compost It! sticker for collection. Brush bundles can be no larger than 4 feet long by 18 inches in diameter. Compost It! stickers can be purchased at City Hall.
- Bag it:** Put loose yard waste such as lawn clippings, leaves, and garden vegetation in Compost It! bags or store-brand bags with a green Compost It! sticker. Compost It! bags and stickers are sold at many local grocery, home improvement, and convenience stores.
- Wheel it:** If you've enrolled in the Compost It! cart service, toss everything in your cart and take it to the curb on your normal collection day.

To find a complete list of retailers who sell Compost It! bags and stickers, or for more information on yard waste collection, please visit Metro Waste Authority's website at [www.WhereltShouldGo.com/YardWaste](http://www.WhereltShouldGo.com/YardWaste), or call 515-244-0021.

## What's the Deal with Deicing Salt?

Deicing salt keeps us safe in the winter: we put it down on our sidewalks, parking lots, and roads to melt ice and improve traction. However, salt may not be as safe to use as you think. What happens to the salt after it gets washed away by melting ice and snow?

Salt on sidewalks and roads moves into our local water bodies by, for example, traveling through storm drains that discharge into Walnut Creek. The source of drinking water in Windsor Heights is the Raccoon River, which Walnut Creek flows directly into. Once salt gets into the water, it's permanent. There is no way to remove it, and each year the salt concentration increases as we add more salt. Salt can pollute our drinking water. It can be toxic to fish, plants, and other aquatic life.

There are no standards for labeling deicing products. There's no such thing as an environmentally safe deicer; they all have side effects. Chloride-based deicers are most common.

The best strategy for protecting your local water quality is to use less of it! Every teaspoon of salt you don't apply will save 5 gallons of water from being permanently polluted. Learn how to safely reduce your use of deicer salt in next month's article!

**TALK IT UP  
LOCK IT UP**

**Gun Safety Saves Lives**



Storing guns locked and unloaded can help prevent gunrelated injuries. If you need a gun lock, the health department and partner agencies have FREE trigger locks available for pickup.

Visit the health department's website to see a map of locations, including the Windsor Heights Police Department, by visiting <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health-department/gun-safety/>.

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

## How's Our Newsletter?





## VOLUNTEER WITH US

[Click Here](#)

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

## DONATE

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

[Click Here](#)

**STAY  
CONNECTED**



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

[www.windsorheightsfoundation.org](http://www.windsorheightsfoundation.org)

DART Paratransit's Bus Plus service, which is an ADA door-to-door accessible service for persons with a disability, will undergo several service changes impacting residents beginning November 1. The existing Bus Plus Base Service Zone will remain as-is at \$3.50 per trip. Bus Plus riders will also be able to ride free on DART's Fixed Route services by showing a Bus Plus ID. DART will hold several how-to-ride training events for Bus Plus customers to learn about these services.

Additional info is at [ridedart.com/bus-plus-changes](https://ridedart.com/bus-plus-changes).

## Volunteer Opportunities

Join our Zoning Board of Adjustment. Learn more and apply today!

[Click Here](#)

Be a part of bringing the holiday magic to Windsor Heights during Windsor Wonderland.

[Click Here](#)



## 10/16/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved the First Reading of Ordinance No. 23-08 - An Ordinance Amending Section 1.12 (Warrants) Regarding Administrative Search Warrants
- Approved the Second Reading of 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
- City Engineer Justin Ernst from Bolton & Menk gave an update on the 73rd St Reconstruction project. He spoke towards delays in the project due to permits currently sitting with Iowa DOT and Federal approvers. It is expected that additional studies will need to be completed.

## 10/2/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved the First Reading of 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
- Approved Colby Park Bid Package and Resolution No. 2023-52 A Resolution to Provide for a Notice of Public Hearing on the Proposed Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract, and Estimated Total Cost for the 2023 Colby Park Improvement Project and for the Taking of Bids on Said Project
- ISG presented on the building status of the Public Works building and Salt Shed. Council discussed options with Public Works Director Jason Roberts and Supervisor Andy Larson on how to manage salt storage this winter
- Bolton & Menk lead Discussion on Additional Updates to 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
- Approved the Purchase of the Case 521 G End Loader