



COMMUNITY NEWS January 2024

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Recycle Mercury Bulbs at City Hall
- Save Money by Using Less Salt
- Library Update
- Register Your Pets
- Talk with Officials
- 2024 Events Calendar

Contact Council

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[Click here to submit a Contact Council form online!](#)

A Letter From Mayor Mike Jones

Happy New Year! Looking back on 2023, there was plenty to be joyous about. City Council approved multi-million-dollar improvements to Colby Park, which addressed ADA accessibility to the Community Center and also included a splash pad and playground refresh. There was the development of the long-vacant lot at 63rd Street and Hickman Road by Silverstar Car Wash, with the expectation for more construction in the surrounding lots. The Community Events Committee saw tremendous turnout for Movies in the Park, Fall Festival, and Windsor Wonderland, among other events.



Looking forward to 2024, the focus will be maintaining the same levels of service without raising property taxes, as the majority of the Iowa Legislature continues in their efforts to erode home rule and interfere with municipalities' ability to govern. There will be funding challenges with DART, an organization that our elected officials see as extremely important and want to see it continue to provide excellent service to our residents and neighbors across the Metro who shop at our businesses. There will be groundbreaking on The Windsor, a 100+ unit apartment complex at the intersection of 63rd Street and University. Perhaps most importantly to you, the 73rd Street Reconstruction Project will finally go out to bid in March, with the expectation for work to begin as soon as practical.

Your elected officials and staff are committed to providing you with outstanding services. There are several benefits available to Windsor Heights residents including the Metro Home Improvement Program, a residential property tax abatement, the Stormwater Best Management Reimbursement Program, and the Sidewalk Improvement Grants, which will help you pay for the cost of repairing existing sidewalks, as opposed to being specially assessed. To find out more about these programs, please visit the City's website.

I, my fellow elected officials and City Staff look forward to continuing to serve you in 2024 and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to personally reach out to any one of us. Our contact information is listed to the left. Have a wonderful holiday season!



WINDSOR
HEIGHTS
the heart of it all

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

Windsor Heights Recycles!

To encourage residents to recycle Mercury containing compact fluorescent bulbs, fluorescent tubes and HIDs bulbs Windsor Heights City Hall will be hosting a drop off location for residents. MetroWaste accepts halogen, incandescent and LED light bulbs in your trash but these can also be brought to City Hall for recycling as well.



How to drop-off: Bring your ID showing Windsor Heights residency and drop off up to fifteen intact eligible lightbulbs to City Hall weekdays between 8-4:30 and we'll recycle them for you at no charge. Light bulbs can also be brought to Bondurant Metro Waste at no charge.

Save Money While Using Less Salt

Deicing salt can be a valuable tool to keep us safe in the winter. However, a bag of salt ends up costing a lot more than \$10. Salt is corrosive, you may have noticed that from the rust on your car or pitted concrete. Salt damages not only vehicles, but buildings, sidewalks, plants and more. Salt can impact infrastructure like bridges and streetlights. Salt damage is not limited to the outdoors, it gets tracked into buildings and damages carpets and floors. Every ton of salt applied can create \$1,700 to \$17,000 of infrastructure damage, a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report found. How much salt do you use?

Winter maintenance professionals work hard to keep us safe. Give plows time and space to do their jobs. Plows must drive slowly to ensure the applied salt doesn't bounce off the road. Don't expect winter roads to be 100% clear and perfect. We are all trying to be responsible salt users.

The use of salt to keep us safe can feel inevitable. Make sure to shovel early and often after snow falls to prevent ice and reduce your use of salt. Salt is a pollutant that stays in our local water forever. Future generations will be paying the price for the salt we put down today.

Stay tuned for next month's article on how to reduce the use of salt by fixing the infrastructure problems around you that cause ice to form, also known as low salt design.



2024 PET LICENSE OPEN

Register by March 31 to avoid late fees

Spayed/Neutered - \$20
Unfixed - \$30

[Register your pet today!](#)



12/4/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 20-06 An Ordinance Amending Chapters 165 through 177 of the Code of Ordinances for the City
- of Windsor Heights Related to Zoning
- Approved the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 183 (Mobile Food Units)
- Approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Teamsters Local 238
- Approved to Entering Into A Space Use Analysis Agreement With OPN Architects and Budgeting \$25,000 for FY25
- Discussed City Council Goals After Gathering Staff Comments on the Progression of Goals Through 2023
- Discussed University Avenue Pole Banners and Presented Design Chosen by the Communications Committee

12/18/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved the Third Reading of Ordinance No. 20-06 An Ordinance Amending Chapters 165 through 177 of the Code of Ordinances for the City; and to Adopt and Publish
- Approved the Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 183 (Mobile Food Units); and to Adopt and Publish
- Tabled consideration of Resolution 2023-64 - Approving an Updated Fee Schedule For The City Of Windsor Heights
- Tabled consideration of Resolution 2023-67 - Approving Updated CEC Guidelines
- Approved 2024 City Council Goals and Objectives
- Approved Purchase of Additional Holiday Lights Along University Ave

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

Talk with Officials

Talk with Officials is a new forum designed to connect residents with State, County, and City elected officials representing Windsor Heights. The forum will include Mayor Mike Jones, Rep. Jennifer Konfrst, Senator Claire Celsi, and Polk Co. Supervisor Matt McCoy.

The Talk with Officials event is open to the public and held on the last Saturday of each respective month throughout the legislative session. Registration is required with in-person registration limited. Virtual attendance is unlimited, however registration is still required to receive the zoom link.

Questions will be accepted in advance. If time allows, questions will be accepted from in-person and virtual attendees. To submit a question for the elected officials to answer, please email tmenke@urbandalechamber.com on or before January 25th.

[Register here today!](#)

NO MORE LATE FINES



NO MORE LATE FINES

STARTING JANUARY 16

BOOKS, DVDS, CDS, AND MORE!

NO MORE LATE FINES

AT YOUR LIBRARY

DMPL removes late fines from most items

Beginning Tuesday, January 16, 2024, the Des Moines Public Library will no longer charge late fines for books, DVDs, CDs, and more materials. This policy, approved by the Des Moines Public Library Board of Trustees on Tuesday, December 19, will also retroactively eliminate all past late fines on library accounts. At that time, patrons whose library cards have been blocked due to past unpaid late fines will be able to renew their library cards

and use the library again. Some fines and fees will remain. For more information on the policy, go to dmpl.org/fine-free.

Take the 2024 DMPL Reading Challenge

Delve into books both new and familiar as part of the Des Moines Public Library's 2024 Reading Challenge, and win fun prizes along the way! All you have to do is read a book from 12 of our 18 selected genre categories over 12 months. You can read books in any order, and we'll even offer expert librarian reading suggestions. When you complete the challenge visit any DMPL location to get your special finisher button! In addition to quarterly prizes and all finishers will be entered into a drawing for the grand prize at the end of the year. Sign up now at dmpl.org/reading-challenge.



2024 Events

April 20 - Earth Day Celebration

3- Movies in the Park

31 - Touch a Truck

May

7 - Movies in the Park

8 - City-Wide Garage Sale*

15 - Spring Cleanup*

23 - Windsor Heights Foundation Ice Cream Social *

25 - Nights in the Heights

June

4 - Nights in the Heights 4th of July Celebration

9 - Nights in the Heights

16 - Nights in the Heights

23 - Nights in the Heights

30 - Nights in the Heights

July

2 - Movies in the Park

August 6 - Nights in the Heights + National Night Out

6 - Movies in the Park

Sept

Oct

4-5 - Fall Fest + Movies in the Park

11 - Veteran's Day Luncheon

Nov

Dec

7 - Windsor Wonderland + Movies in the Park

[Click here to
learn more about
special events!](#)

* = City wide events. All other events take place at Colby Park.

Movies in the Park start at sundown.

Nights in the Heights start at 7 PM except July 4 will begin at 6:30 PM.