



COMMUNITY NEWS July 2024

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Police Home Vacation Watch
- Library Update
- Removing Tree of Heaven
- Walnut Creek Cleanup
- Upcoming Events
- Council Meeting Recaps

Contact Council

Mayor Mike Jones

- mike.jones@windsorheights.org

Councilor Susan Skeries

- susan.skeries@windsorheights.org

Councilor Joseph Jones

- joseph.jones@windsorheights.org

Councilor Michael Libbie

- michael.libbie@windsorheights.org

Councilor Lauren Campbell

- lauren.campbell@windsorheights.org

Councilor Threase Harms

- tharms@windsorheights.org



You can also scan the QR Code to contact Council as well!



The City of Windsor Heights is funding a Right of Way (ROW) Tree Planting Program to help increase the urban canopy and replace trees lost over the past several years due to emerald ash borer infestations and windstorms. Trees Forever will plant trees in the Fall of 2024 and will water and warranty them for the first year. Thereafter, residents are encouraged to help care for the tree and will be responsible for maintaining an eight-foot clearance above any sidewalks. The City will be responsible for any tree removal or trimming to maintain road clearance.

The availability of trees through this program is limited. Planting locations will be considered based on the order applications are received from residents and with selection subject to the proposed location meeting the attached ROW Tree Planting Guidelines. Upon receipt of an application, a city employee will visit the property to review the suitability of the proposed planting location per city guidelines. If the location is viable, city staff will place a white flag at the proposed planting location. If there is not a suitable location identified, a city employee will reach to the resident to discuss alternatives.

Registration opens Monday, July 8 at 1 PM. Scan the QR code and bookmark the registration page.



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

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 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 to keep valuables out of sight. If possible, throw away or 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.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

NEW AT DMPL: Comics Plus!

You can now get unlimited access to the best in independent comics and graphic novels – on any device – with your Des Moines Public Library card. Our brand new app, Comics Plus, is a free digital tool featuring publishers like Dark Horse, Oni Press, Boom! Studios, and more, with titles like The Walking Dead, Avatar: The Last Airbender, Big Nate, and thousands and thousands of other options.

There are no residency restrictions, and all you need to do is download the app, enter in your library card info, and start reading! Go to dmpl.org/comics-plus.



FEATURED EVENT: Raising the Floor screening

Monday, July 22, 6:30 PM | Franklin Avenue Library

The final event in our collaborative Library Talk: Poverty in Iowa program series with UpLift – The Central Iowa Basic Income Pilot is a special screening of the documentary short film Raising the Floor. The film explores the issue of universal basic income in struggling communities. Following the screening, stick around for a discussion about the film, UpLift, and income inequality.

Walnut Creek Cleanup

Thank you to Iowa Confluence Water Trails (ICON) and the Conservation Corps for cleanup work they did along Walnut Creek in June. They began at 73rd Street and made their way downstream towards Colby Park checking for debris and build of logs and other vegetation.

They'll be back in August for the section of Walnut Creek between 73rd Street and Clive.



Tree of Heaven is Invading and What You Can Do

The tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), also known as Chinese sumac, copal-tree, stink tree, and varnish tree, is a problematic exotic invasive species in Iowa. It is often confused with sumac; however, the tree of heaven can be distinguished by the foul odor it emits.

Tree of heaven produces many seeds, grows extremely quickly, and can out-compete native plants. It can rapidly take over a site and form dense thickets. Tree of heaven is also known to produce allelochemicals that prevent other plants from growing around it.

The preferred way to treat tree of heaven is to basal-bark treat it before cutting it down in order to fully kill the tree. If you cut it and don't treat it, a lot of times the trees send out suckers and don't die fully.



For basal barking, the Polk County Conservation recommends two different approaches:

- A product called Pathfinder II (ready to use) – you can buy it off Amazon or some forestry suppliers
- A mix of Triclopyr 4 (a.k.a. Element4/Garlon 4) and bark oil (a surfactant – gets it to stick to the bark). Use 3 gallons of bark oil with 1 gallon of herbicide.

The best window for basal-barking is July 1 until onset of fall color.

A cut-stump treatment (cut tree down and apply to remaining stump) of 50% glyphosate can be utilized, but you may be dealing with suckers and have to repeatedly treat over a few years. Either cut suckers or foliar spray with glyphosate.



AUGUST 2ND

JOIN US AT 8:15PM
MOVIE STARTS AT 8:45PM

FREE!



Presented by **BOLTON & MENK**



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
2024

POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

SAVE THE DATE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
MORE DETAILS TO COME



Project Update Hub

Keep updated on City projects going on in one place. Scan the QR Code for updates on projects including Colby Park renovations and 73rd Street reconstruction.



6/3/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved Resolution No. 2024-40 - A Resolution Approving the Site Plan for The Windsor at 1148 63rd Street. At the meeting, Council added a condition of a privacy fence along the south side of the property and a temporary full access driveway on University Ave that will be reviewed by the City in three years
- Approved Resolution No. 2024-39 - A Resolution Approving Development Agreement with Windsor Millang, L.L.C., the Windsor, L.L.C. and Jensfam, LLC, Authorizing Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments and Pledging Certain Tax Increment Revenues to the Payment of the Agreement
- Approved contract With Wright Tree Service For Debris Removal of Debris Collected by the City after the May Storm
- Approved Payment to JC Midwest Services For Storm Cleanup Services. JC Midwest Assisted Public Works with Storm Debris Cleanup Decreasing the Time for Cleanup to be Completed
- Approved the 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2024-04 - An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Windsor Heights, Iowa, by Amending Chapter 185, Governing Floodplain Management; and to Adopt and Publish. This ordinance will further assist in the City's flood management goals and help the City join the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. This is a voluntary program which can help communities get flood insurance discounts.

6/17/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Mayor Mike Jones Proclaimed the Recognition of June 19, 2024 as Juneteenth National Freedom Day in Windsor Heights
- Approved a Space Use Analysis from OPN Architects. The analysis will look at all city facilities and assess the condition and space and programing needs. The City will be provided a report that includes a multi-year plan for improvements/changes, assessment of code compliance for existing buildings and preliminary cost estimates
- Approved the Street Tree Grant Program. The program will plant 20 trees in the fall on specified right of way properties and provide necessary watering for them. The program will be first come, first served. More details will be announced by mid-July
- Approved a Contract with JC Midwest Services for Public Works' Salt Shed Demolition. A new salt shed will be constructed this summer/fall
- Approved the Purchase of Fireworks for the Windsor Heights Fall Festival from J&M Displays
- Approved the 2024 Employee Handbook and Updated Purchase Policy which provides guidelines for city staff on what purchases will need Council approval
- Approved the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-05 - An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Windsor Heights, Iowa, By
- Adding Chapter 182, Vacant Property Registration. The intention of this proposed Vacant Property Registration Ordinance is to establish a clear contact point and expectations for vacant property maintenance as well as to provide additional tools to the City to ensure vacant properties are free of exterior code violations and otherwise free of hazards

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