



COMMUNITY NEWS August 2024

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Stormwater Management Program
- Library Update
- Free Tree of Heaven Treatment
- School Year Driving Reminders
- Council Meeting Recaps

Contact Council

Mayor Mike Jones

- mike.jones@windsorheights.org

Councilor Susan Skeries

- susan.skeries@windsorheights.org

Councilor Joseph Jones

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Councilor Michael Libbie

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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!



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

How do I report a concern?

If you notice a concern around town, let us know by calling Deputy City Clerk Nate Leuthold at 515-645-6826 or submitting it online at 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.

I reported a concern, but nothing's happening?

Often times, you may not see progress on a code violation immediately after it is reported. The City does it's best to work with the property owner and offer chances for them to remedy the situation before the City steps in to correct the issue. This involves the following steps:

1. Once a concern is received, the City will investigate the issue and review the City Code to verify a violation is occurring
2. If there is a violation, a notice is sent to the property owner making them aware of the violation and asking for cooperation in complying
3. A follow up will happen about two weeks later and, if no action has been taken, a second follow up will be sent which will notify the property owner the next step is for the City to remedy the issue. This action will result in fees being assessed to the property owner

Can I receive an update on a concern I reported?

Yes. You can call Deputy City Clerk Leuthold at 515-645-6826 for an update.



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

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

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.





Save October 4th & 5th for free family fun including a parade, food trucks, fireworks and more!

Keep an eye on the City's social media in the coming days for more details!

AT YOUR LIBRARY

New at DMPL: American Sign Language learning app

American Sign Language is now available as a language to learn with the Des Moines Public Library's Mango app. ASL is one of several dozen language options available to learn with your library card.

Mark your calendar: 2024 Fall Author Series

Three authors with Iowa connections will appear at Central Library for free author events this fall. Learn more by scanning the QR code!



Shawntelle Madison - Thursday, September 5, 7 PM

Shawntelle Madison is a Des Moines native who has written over 15 science fiction, romance, and fantasy books, including the popular urban fantasy series, *Coveted*. Her new novel, *The Fallen Fruit* (release date: September 3), is a family saga that follows a Black family that for two centuries has been cursed with the gift of time travel.

Austin Frerick - Wednesday, September 25, 7 PM

Austin Frerick is a seventh-generation Iowan and an expert on agricultural and antitrust policy, having worked at the Open Market Institute, U.S. Department of Treasury, and as a Fellow at Yale University. His 2024 book, *Barons: Money, Power, and the Corruption of America's Food Industry*, serves as a critique of the private monopolization of American food systems.





Shawntelle Madison
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
7 PM
CENTRAL LIBRARY



Austin Frerick
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
7 PM
CENTRAL LIBRARY



Daniel Kraus
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23
7 PM
CENTRAL LIBRARY



Free Tree of Heaven Treatment!

The City's Parks Department will be offering free basal bark service for residents to assist with removal of the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) that is proliferating throughout our community. Due to the way these trees grow, simply cutting down the tree and applying herbicide is unsuccessful in stopping additional saplings from sprouting. To help successfully remove these trees, the City will complete a basal bark treatment and after thirty days the property owner can then cut down the tree without additional saplings appearing.

If you have Tree Of Heaven in your yard that you would like treated, stop by City Hall during regular business hours to fill out a form and obtain a pink ribbon(s) to tie around the tree(s) you want treated. City staff will treat the tree and apply a second ribbon to the trunk with the date of treatment. After Thirty days, you can proceed with successful tree removal.

Thank you for your assistance in helping stop the proliferation of invasive species in our community!

SEPTEMBER 6TH

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

FREE!

Presented by **BOLTON & MENK**

October 5th, 2024

WHAMM 5k

Windsor Heights
Annual Mini Marathon

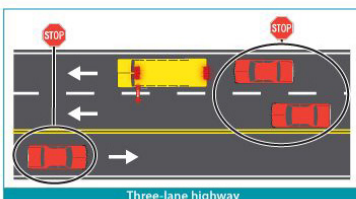
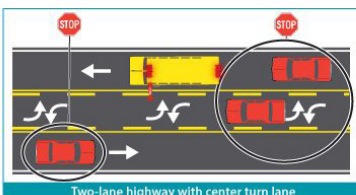
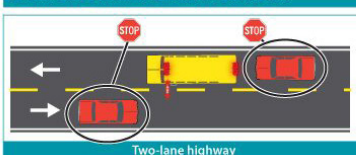
Registration includes
race shirt, and pancake
breakfast ticket

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER TODAY!**

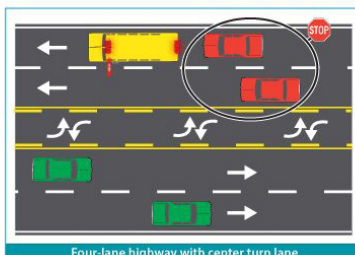
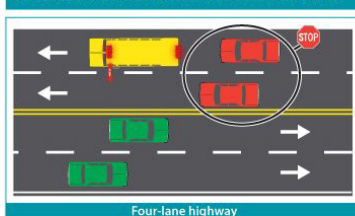
STOPPED SCHOOL BUS PASSING LAWS IN IOWA

www.iowadot.gov/schoolbus/requiredstopping.html

3 LANES OR FEWER: ALL VEHICLES MUST STOP



4 LANES OR MORE: VEHICLES APPROACHING FROM THE REAR MUST STOP



School Year Driving Reminders

- Take your time, **SLOW DOWN**, and watch for kids going to or coming from schools
- **NEVER** pass a school bus with flashing lights
- Be courteous to others in the area dropping off or picking up
- Do not park where you are blocking driveways, within 10-feet of an intersection, where you are blocking a crosswalk, or where otherwise posted

Learn more about school bus safety by visiting iowadot.gov/schoolbus or scanning the QR code.





Why Volunteer?

- ⤵ Personal growth and skill development
- ⤵ Building relationships
- ⤵ Greater connection to the community

Have you been wondering how you can get more involved? Have a child in need of silver cord hours?

Our Special Events committee is always hard at work planning the year's events, including Movies in the Park and Fall Fest, and it takes a village.

Meet your neighbors handing out treats at Movies in the Park and then enjoy a movie!

Help make the annual Windsor Heights Fall Fest a success!

Bring the magic on winter alive for the city at Windsor Wonderland!

Scan the QR Code to see what opportunities we have today and sign up for the mailing list to be the first to hear about new opportunities!



7/1/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Sister City Representative Ricki King presented on a recent Sister City trip to Windsor Heights' sister city Kofu, Japan
- Approved the Community Events Center Solar Bid from 1SourceSolar. The solar panels are expected to be installed by the end of the year
- Approved Resolution 2024-47 - A Resolution Approving the Future Land Use Map and Future Land Use Designation Definitions within the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Windsor Heights
- Approved Resolution 2024-48 - A Resolution Approving the Updated Zoning Map for the City of Windsor Heights. The update reflects changes made to the Zoning Code that were passed in early 2024
- Approved Resolution No. 2024-49 - A Resolution Approving the Site Plan for a Salt Shed at the City's Public Works Facility. The current salt shed is in a state of disrepair and will be demolished prior to the construction of a new salt shed
- Approved an Request for Proposal for Managed IT services for the City. This will be sent to local IT companies to manage the City's IT needs
- Approved an Update to the Employee Handbook
- Discussed funding for the Neighborhood Finance Corporation's (NFC) home improvement program in Windsor Heights. The funds proved in 2018 are diminishing and staff has recommended the NFC utilize a wait list pending City budgetary discussions which will be held in the fall/winter. Council gave direction that this is how they wish to proceed. Residents are still welcome to apply for the Metro Home Improvement Program an alternative home improvement program available
- Approved the second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-05 - Creating a Vacant Property Registration

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