



## COMMUNITY NEWS NOVEMBER 2024

### Important Numbers

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

### What's Inside

- Snow Reminders
- City Construction Update
- Public Works Update
- Public Art Survey
- Fall Fest Thank You
- Library Update
- Council Meeting Recaps

### Contact Council

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#### Councilor Susan Skeries

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#### Councilor Michael Libbie

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#### Councilor Lauren Campbell

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#### Councilor Threase Harms

- tharms@windsorheights.org



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

## WINDSOR Wonderland



Colby Park will come alive with the holiday spirit during Windsor Wonderland with FREE family fun on Saturday, December 7 from 3 to 8 PM! Bring the family out for free activities, hot chocolate, carriage rides, cookie decorating and MORE, including a special visit from Santa!

**NEW THIS YEAR!** Have a piece of Windsor Heights on your tree with a hand crafted ornament made by local artist Nicki Michels.

Learn more at [www.windsorwonderland.com](http://www.windsorwonderland.com) including how to preorder your ornament, register for a free gingerbread house for the contest or to sign up for the fun run! Plus see the what categories you can win!



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

# 06

December

**Citywide Holiday Lights Contest**

Judging Begins at 7 PM

# 07

December

3 to 8 PM @ Colby Park

3-5: **Meet Santa's Reindeer**

**Gingerbread House Contest**

**Cookie Decorating**

3:15: **Ugly Sweater Fun Run**

3-6: **Horse Drawn Carriage Rides**

**Santa Visit**

**Holiday Treats & Crafts**

**Food Trucks**

5:15: **Tree Lighting Ceremony**

3-8: **Silent Disco**

6: **Movie: The Grinch**

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



Hand painted by local artist Nicki Michels of Urbandale

## Windsor Heights Ornaments

Deck your tree with a bit of Windsor Heights!

**PREORDER BY 11/27**

**Two styles to choose!**

**\$15**

**Pick up at Windsor Wonderland on 12/7**



# 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! We're already planning how next year can be even better. We'll see you at Windsor Wonderland!



## Snow Reminders

We may not want to admit it yet, but winter is right around the corner. November heralds the start of the holiday season, a time for joy and hope... and snow. Sometimes lots of snow! What does snow mean for Windsor Heights residents?

- All snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks forty-eight (48) hours after the snow and ice have ceased being deposited thereon from one continuous event. (50.02-26)
- Accumulations of ice or snow located above ground level that constitute a danger of falling on persons in the vicinity thereof must be removed. (50.02-33)
- It is unlawful to park any vehicle, except to avoid an accident or in obedience to the signal of a police officer or a traffic control device, upon any of the streets of the City during the time of any snowfall and within 24 hours following the end of any snowfall. (60.10.10)

## AT YOUR LIBRARY: FRANKLIN AVE PROGRAMS

### Read Books, Win Pizza at DMPL!

Reading books for pizza is not just for kids anymore! The Des Moines Public Library's popular 30x30 Challenge is back for a fourth year, this time with a brand-new pizza partner: Dough Co. Pizza. The concept is simple: Read 30 minutes a day for all 30 days of November, and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of 30 gift cards to Dough Co. Pizza. In addition, every challenge finisher gets a special pizza coupon deal emailed to them. (You must be 18 to register.) Find more information on the challenge, and how to pre-register, at [dmpl.org/30x30](http://dmpl.org/30x30).

### Mindfulness Day at Franklin Avenue Library! Saturday, November 23, 10 AM-5 PM

Spend a Saturday at the library experiencing a mix of contemplative practices to get centered as the busy holiday season begins.

- 10:30 AM: Mindful cooking with Steve Bryce
- 12:15 PM: Journaling to heal with Billie Wade
- 1:45 PM: Yoga with Hannah Cutler
- 3:30 PM: Sound healing with Safiyah Grace



# Andy's Corner!

- Windsor Heights Public Works Department recently underwent few changes in leadership. Andy Larson will now serve as the Public Works Director. Jason Roberts will serve his new role as the Public Works Superintendent, overseeing Parks and Recreation and Building and Facility Maintenance. We are very proud of how the Colby Park Project turned out and take seriously the responsibility of maintaining the Park, Splash Pad, and the Windsor Trail System along with all our public spaces in town. This reorganization allows the department to utilize the strengths and attributes of our staff to better serve Windsor Heights. Congratulations to both Andy and Jason!
- Winter is right around the corner. Construction on the new salt storage shed is almost complete and trucks will be hauling in our inventory of road salt for the winter event season. Over the next few weeks, our staff will also be outfitting our trucks and equipment and gearing up in preparation for the changing season. Check out the Snow Event Reminders in this newsletter for more detailed information regarding snow and ice this winter. As always, be prepared and stay safe this winter.
- Our crew will be crack sealing University Avenue throughout early November. Project updates will be posted on our website and on social media soon. As with any road construction project, please be alert when traveling through a work zone. This construction season has been very busy, a big THANK YOU for being patient and understanding with all the road work that has been ongoing this year.
- Here are some other projects our crew has been hard at work completing:
  - MS4 Storm Sewer Inspections
  - Crack Sealing a number of streets
  - Fall Clean Up in the Parks, Trails and Building Grounds
  - Salt Shed Construction and Winter Preparation

## Public Art Survey

The city of Windsor Heights is currently in the development stage of a public art plan which will guide the vision for what public art can accomplish in our community. This plan will address goals and community priorities, as well as guidelines for the program. Community input is an important part of the discovery phase.

Please take this 5 minute survey to give us your feedback which will help shape our community.



## Happening Around Town

- B-Bops new facility is substantially complete and has obtained a temporary occupancy permit. They are open for business.
- Blue Agave, a taqueria, has entered into a sub-lease for the former Little Brother space and is anticipated to open soon.
- On October 23rd, The Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the Windsor Presbyterian Church's parking lot site plan located immediately north of the Church. The site plan will be considered by City Council November 4th.

## Vacant Property Registration

The City of Windsor Heights now requires registration of properties vacant for more than 180 days and not being actively marketed. Registered properties are subject to specific maintenance requirements and are required to be inspected by the designated property manager monthly. If residents have concerns about a vacant property in town, please contact Deputy City Clerk Nate Leuthold at 515-645-6826.

## How's Our Newsletter?

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

## Excuse Our Mess

- 73rd St. reconstruction north of University Ave. continues to make progress. Phase 6, between Wilshire and El Rancho, is open to local traffic and Phase 5, between El Rancho to Jefferson, is anticipated to reopen early December. When Phase 5 is completed, 73rd St. will reopen to thru traffic until construction resumes spring of 2025.
- Design work for reconstruction of 68th St. south of University Ave. is nearing completion, and the project will go out for bid before the end of the year. Construction is intended to begin on this project spring of 2025. Forest Court between 64th St. and 66th St. is also planned to be resurfaced in 2025.
- Colby Park construction is substantially complete, some final work on the food truck plaza is planned to be completed this winter and coming spring. Thanks to everyone that came out to enjoy the park during Fall Festival!



## 10/7/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved 2004 69th St. Sidewalk Waiver Request. The home is being constructed and City Code states a sidewalk must be installed, however, there is no sidewalk along the west side of north 69th Street. Council was in agreement it did not make sense to install a sidewalk only at 2004 69th Street. The property owner will sign a petition and waiver which will be recorded against the property and allow for the city to assess the charge of sidewalk installation in the future.
- Discussed installation of a limestone rock barrier on 63rd Street and the 235 west-bound off ramp. Council was in support of a barrier with notes that the design include signage for the City and did not put a burden on the resident in regards to lawn care. Staff will work on a design and bring the item back to Council for budget consideration.
- Discussed Colby Park Change Order 5 which focused on custom leaf benches being added to the Food Truck Plaza. Council was not supportive of the design and functionality, but was supportive of additional seating based on public feedback and lessons learned at the 2024 Fall Festival. Staff will work with Bolton & Menk, the City's engineering firm, on a design change and bring the change order back to Council at a future meeting.
- Discussed the 68th Street South Reconstruction project. Council discussed the timing and phasing of the project, including the possibility of completion incentives, in hopes of limiting the time frame of the project and impact on residents. Discussion topics also included how the City can best serve residents with mobility issues during construction and providing trees on resident's property for those who opt in. The project is still in the design phase. The design and plan specifications will be brought back to Council at a future meeting for approval.
- Approved the 2nd reading as well as waived the 3rd reading of Ordinance No. 2024-07 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 175, Revising Subsection 175.05 To 175.09-04, Of The Code Of Ordinances For The City Of Windsor Heights, With Regard To Design Elements For On-Premises Signs. The City will move to publish and adopt the ordinance.
- Approved the 2nd reading of Ordinance No. 2024-08 - An Ordinance Amending Chapters 153 And 175, Revising Subsection 175.02 To 175.03, Of The Code Of Ordinances For The City Of Windsor Heights, With Regard To Design Elements For On-Premises Signs.

## 10/21/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved the purchase of retaining wall materials for \$1500 to be provided to the resident of 7254 El Rancho, who will install a retaining wall along 73rd Street. The City will install a retaining wall at the corner of El Rancho Ave and 73rd St as deemed necessary by the City's engineer, as part of the 73rd Street Phase One project. The resident was concerned with the grading on his property further south of where the City will place the retaining wall. The resident approached the City proposing he will install the wall per specifications provided by the City's engineer in exchange for the City providing material.
- Approved Resolution 2024-64 - A Resolution Approving The Creation Of Fire Department Lieutenant. The position will supplement a current Fire Department position and not create a new position. The department will review internal applicants in the coming month to help alleviate the workload of the Fire Chief and provide a secondary line of leadership. Council amended the job description to include the preferred candidate be a paramedic.
- Discussed the upcoming 68th Street Reconstruction project and how to ensure homes remain accessible to residents with accessibility concerns. Staff presented an option of reusable heavy duty mats to create a smooth level walkway. Council was concerned as this would be a novel approach as well as creating a hurdle for contractors bidding the project. Staff will continue to research alternatives to present to Council before the bid package is approved.
- Consideration of the 3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-08 - An Ordinance Amending Chapters 153 And 175, Revising Subsection 175.02 To 175.03, Of The Code Of Ordinances For The City Of Windsor Heights, With Regard To Design Elements For On-Premises Signs; and to Adopt and Publish. The ordinance allows businesses to place a limited number of temporary signs exempt from permitting based on square footage. The City will send a letter with more details to all business within Windsor Heights. Any business with questions is welcome to contact City Hall for more information.