



COMMUNITY NEWS DECEMBER 2024

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Road Construction Update
- Share Your Neighbors Achievements
- Public Works Update
- Requested: Veterans Information
- Library Update
- Council Meeting Recaps

Contact Council

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Councilor Susan Skeries

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Councilor Joseph Jones

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Councilor Michael Libbie

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Councilor Lauren Campbell

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Councilor Threase Harms

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

Happy Holidays From Your City Council

Warmest wishes to you this holiday season and may you have a healthy and happy new year. – Mayor Mike Jones

Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, love, and laughter. May the New Year bring you happiness, health, and countless moments that matter most. I look forward to making 2025 in Windsor Heights our best year yet.
– Councilor Susan Skeries

This holiday season I want to express my gratitude for our wonderful community. Serving you has been an honor, and I'm proud of all we've achieved together. During this time of joy and reflection, let's support one another and embrace the spirit of giving that makes WH so special. May your holidays be filled with peace, joy, and gratitude. Happy Holidays and wishes for a prosperous New Year! – Councilor Threase Harms

It does not happen often in fact since 1900 the Jewish holiday of Chanukah and Christmas Eve or Christmas Day has been on the same day only eight times. Both festivals have their own traditions, food, and celebration. While Christmas is a daylong Chanukah takes place for eight days. No matter which holiday you celebrate may it be filled with warmth, family, and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah!
– Councilor Michael Libbie

This holiday season I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of serving our community. May this festive season bring joy, warmth, and a sense of togetherness to each and every one of us. I hope the coming year is filled with prosperity, good health, and continued harmony within our wonderful community. – Councilor Lauren Campbell

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments. Thank you for making our town special. Happy holidays!
– Councilor Joseph Jones



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

Andy's Corner!

- The Winter Season is upon us. Please stay safe when traveling this winter. Be cautious and courteous especially when road conditions deteriorate. Our plow trucks start to clear streets with 1" or more of accumulation. Our crew starts by clearing the main roads throughout town first, and then they turn their focus onto the residential streets. For us to effectively clear the entire roadway network, please avoid parking on the street if the forecast calls for a winter weather event.
- The Salt Shed Improvement Project has wrapped up just in time for winter. This shed is vital to our winter operation and provides our staff with a safe and reliable storage facility of our salt inventory.



Road Construction Updates

The **73rd Street road reconstruction** is progressing, with the reopening to through traffic expected by mid-December 2024. Final work, including sidewalk paving and grass restoration, will be completed in Spring 2025. Future construction on 73rd Street will resume in Spring 2025, with the City collaborating with the contractor to prioritize project completion by the end of 2025, weather permitting. Meanwhile, the **reconstruction of 68th Street**, between University Avenue and School Street, is planned for 2025, with bidding set to begin this month. Additionally, design work for the **74th Street storm sewer improvements and road reconstruction** is underway. This project includes significant storm sewer upgrades along 74th Street and extending to North Walnut Creek, with the improvements tentatively scheduled for 2025 and road reconstruction likely to follow in 2026.

Light The Heights is Back!

The Windsor Heights Foundation invites you to participate in the annual tradition of making a gift to the Windsor Heights Foundation and receiving a luminary kit to "Light the Heights" with your neighbors!

Order your kits online by Tuesday, December 17 at www.windsorheightsfoundation.org.

Luminary kits (candles, paper bags, and sand) may be picked up at Jake's Fireworks at 7300 Hickman Rd on Monday, December 30 from 2 to 6 PM.

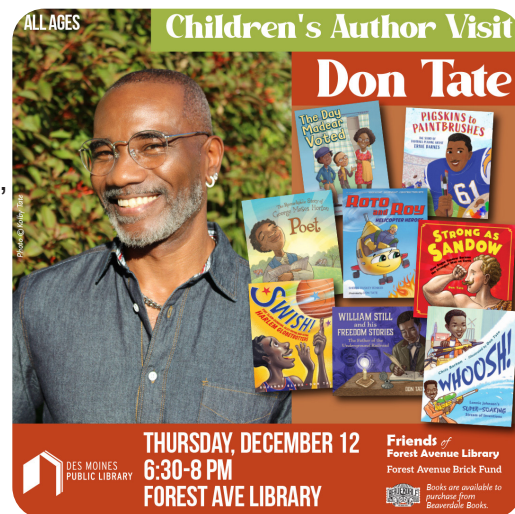
AT YOUR LIBRARY

Featured Author Event: Don Tate Thursday, December 12, 6:30 PM | Forest Avenue Library

Award-winning author and illustrator Don Tate is coming to the Forest Avenue Library on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 PM! During the program, Don Tate will discuss his journey into illustrating and writing, demonstrate some drawing techniques, and invite kids up to help him in learning more about the process. This will be a fun, family-friendly event!. Don Tate joined us on the DMPL Podcast this week to discuss his books, how he evolved from an illustrator to an author, and visiting the Des Moines Public Library as a kid shaped his love of books and reading. Listen to the episode. Beaverdale Books will be on-hand selling copies of Tate's books before and after the program. This program is made possible with support of the Friends of the Forest Avenue Library.

Update: Iowa Adventure Passes in 2025

Due to software issues affecting all Iowa libraries using the service, the Des Moines Public Library's Iowa Adventure Pass program will no longer be available in 2025. Any reservation already made for 2025 will be honored, but we encourage anyone with a current reservation to print those passes immediately. Customers can make new reservations for passes that must be used by December 31, 2024. Iowa libraries are searching for new software and hope to reintroduce the service at a later time. We apologize for the inconvenience.



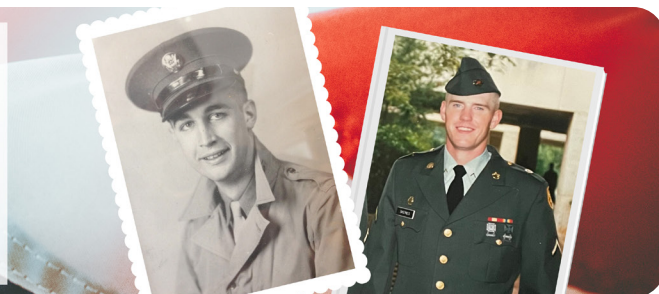
Celebrating Our Neighbors: Share Their Achievements and Stories!

We want to celebrate our amazing community! Do you know a neighbor who's achieved something special—awards, promotions, retirements, or simply being a great neighbor? Share their story with us! Submit their accomplishments for recognition and let's honor the incredible people who make our neighborhood shine. Scan the QR code to submit today and inspire others! You can also email City Clerk Adam Strait at astrait@windsorheights.org. Those recognized will be shared in a future newsletter.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Help us celebrate veterans by submitting a photo of you in uniform!



We are gathering photographs of Windsor Heights Veterans for patriotic pole banners. We plan to display these images each year in recognition of Veterans Day and Independence Day.

Please include the following with your photograph:

The above will be included on the banners. Submit via email to specialevents@windsorheights.org or scan the QR code. Please also include your home address and phone number if we have any questions. Thank you for your service!

First and Last Name
Military Branch
Years of Service
Any awards or medals



Stay Safe While Using Less Deicing Salt

Windsor Heights requires that you clear your sidewalks within 48 hours after the end of a snowfall. You'll find that it is more efficient to shovel right after, or even during, a snowfall.

Shoveling early and often is the best way to prevent snow compaction, making it easier to shovel and reducing the need for deicing salt. We want to avoid salt as it damages infrastructure and pollutes local water, but if you do need it, use it lightly only in icy spots. It only takes 1 cup of salt to treat 150 square feet if you did a good job of removing snow first. More salt does not mean faster melting.

Be aware that salt is not effective in super cold temperatures. In this case, skip the salt and use sand on icy spots to increase traction. Maintaining your property in the winter can be hard work. You are an important part of safety in your community! Protect your property from salt damage and your local waters from salt pollution by using less salt!

- Shovel early after snowfall to reduce snow compaction that creates ice. Just 1 set of footsteps creates compacted snow and more work!
- Use salt lightly only where needed. It is common to overapply deicing salt. Only a light spread in icy spots is necessary. The picture to the right is an example of too much salt.
- Use sand for traction when it's too cold for salt.

The bottom line: Physical removal is your first and best tool for preventing ice.



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

Shaping the Future of Public Art in Windsor Heights: Share Your Input!

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.



11/4/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved Resolution No. 2024-66 - A Resolution Waiving CC Fees for a Recurring Free-Will Donation Community Yoga Class. Beth Gookin attended and presented the concept to Council. The class will be hosted by Good Vibes Movement Yoga and will follow a concept of yoga classes held in Colby Park prior to the pandemic. Those of all yoga expertise levels will be welcome to join. The donations received for classes will be used to help those in need and compensate the class teacher for their time. Inquires about classes should be directed to Good Vibes Movement Yoga.
- Discussed the installation of a bridge over the bioswale in the Colby Park parking lot. The bridge would be installed by Bridges of Iowa, a long-term addiction treatment program founded in 2000 by Don and Charlene Lamberti. Dedicated to those without resources or prospects, Bridges has helped thousands of Iowans and their families overcome drug and alcohol addiction and cross the bridge to a better life. The bridge would be in honor of the organizations 25th anniversary. Bridges of Iowa would cover the cost of the bridge and maintenance for an agreed upon time. Council was supportive and City staff will continue conversations with Bridges of Iowa.
- Approved Resolution No. 2024 - 65 - A Resolution Approving The Site Plan For 6301 University Avenue – Windsor Presbyterian Church Parking Lot.

11/18/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved No Parking Signage on Wilshire Blvd at 74th and 75th. Public Works completed an assessment of potentially hazardous locations in the City and these intersections were identified as potentially unsafe. Public Works expects the signs to be installed by year end.
- Approved Resolution No. 2024-67 - A Resolution Approving Charitable Donation Agreement of Real Estate. The land was donated by Immanuel Pathways and is 0.56 acres of land between the existing trail and Sherwood Forest. The property is currently in the process of being restored to prairie and native woods by the City and acceptance of this property donation will enable the City to maintain it in this state with a trail going forward.
- Discussed Colby Park table and bench options. Nate Weitz from Bolton and Menk, the City's engineering firm, presented 3 design options that used a mixture of a handicap accessible picnic tables and jessie rails, which are a stand-up counter style railing. Discussion centered on ensuring accessibility, avoiding areas of congestion, and maximizing seating areas. Staff will bring back a new design based on the feedback gathered at a future meeting.
- Discussed 68th Street Reconstruction and Sidewalk Accessibility. Discussion focused on whether to proceed with utilizing rubber matting to ensure residents with scooters and other mobility issues could safely travel along designated paths during construction. Council also discussed plans for designating ADA parking spots. Additionally, discussion took place on the projects alternative of reconstruction of Mott Ave between 68th and 69th Street. City staff recommended to construct sidewalk north of Mott which includes the removal of trees and relocating a resident's fence. Council was in favor of utilizing the rubber matting for a walkway and proceeding with the staff recommendation of the north sidewalk on Mott Ave.

WINTER YARD WASTE COLLECTION

December 30, 2024
January 6, 2025

Winter Compost It! Collection is your final opportunity to recycle live Christmas trees and any remaining yard waste. To ensure collection, remove all decorations and attach a Compost It! Sticker. Head to www.mwatoday.com for more info!

Note: Wreaths and garland are NOT accepted.