



COMMUNITY NEWS FEBRUARY 2025

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Sidewalk Grant Program
- Child Safety Seat Checks
- Public Works Update
- Connect with Your Representatives
- Home Improvement Programs
- Council Meeting Recap

Contact Council

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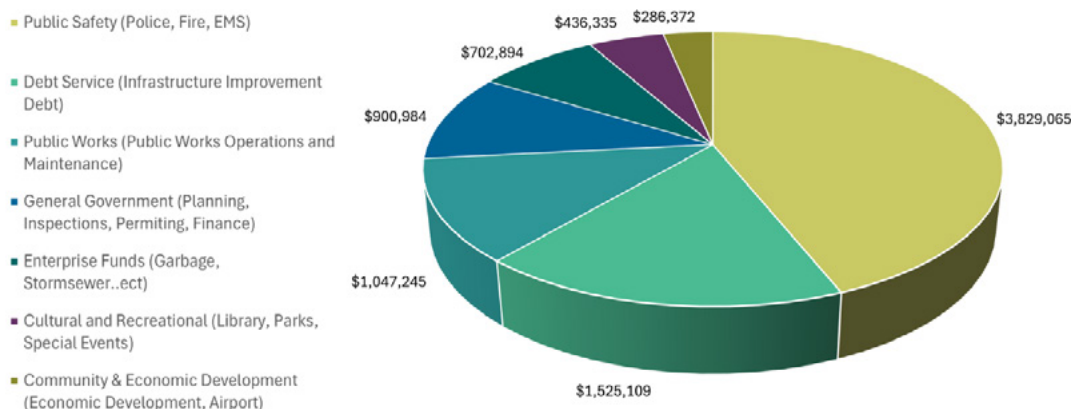
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You can also
scan [click here](#) to
contact Council
as well!

Where are your tax dollars being spent?



The average homeowner in Windsor Heights pays between \$1,600 and \$1,700 annually in City property taxes. The City of Windsor Heights makes up about 37% of each resident's total property taxes, depending on which school district serves a resident's home. The total property tax bill for the average Windsor Heights resident, which supports schools, the county, the community college, and Broadlawns, in addition to City government is in the \$4,000 range. **Look inside to learn more about some services these dollars go to!**

2025 City Budget Planning Begins

The City Council and staff are currently preparing the 2025 City Budget for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Important Dates:

- **March 3:** Public Hearing on Capital Improvement Plan & determination of proposed property tax levy rate.
- **April 7:** Public Hearing On Tax Rate Levy
- **April 21:** Public Hearing & Adoption of Final Budget

What does the Tax Rate Levy mean to you? The tax rate levy is the rate applied to your property's taxable value to generate revenue for essential public services such as public safety, snow removal, and street improvements. Since 2017, the City of Windsor Heights property tax rate has declined from \$16.97 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation to a draft \$14.21 per \$1,000 for 2025. Taxable valuation is based on a property's assessed value, determined by the County Assessor, minus any applicable exemptions for veterans or homeowners 65+.



Andy's Corner!

- The Winter Season is upon us. We've been fortunate to have had a mild winter so far this season, but winter in Iowa can change rapidly. Please stay safe when traveling this winter. Be cautious and courteous, especially when road conditions deteriorate. In the event that we get snow or ice, please avoid parking on the street so our staff can safely and effectively maintain a safe road network for all.
- As springtime nears, please remember that the City offers a Stormwater Best Management Practices Reimbursement Program. This program is designed to help property owners offset the cost of improvement projects that help improve surface water quality and reduce surface water runoff. Runoff reaches Walnut Creek, the Raccoon River, and ultimately ends up in the Des Moines River—our drinking water source! More information can be found at www.windsorheights.org under the Residents drop down menu and on the next page.
- Here are some other projects our crew has been hard at work completing:
 - The Windsor Trail and Walnut Creek Urban Forestry Maintenance Program
 - Filling Potholes
 - Development of an Anti-Icing Program to be added to our Winter Operations

Talk With Officials!

Talk with Officials is a forum designed to connect residents with State, County, and City elected officials representing Windsor Heights. The Talk with Officials event is open to the public and will be held Saturday, February 22 at the Aisha R. Syed Board Room, 2830 100th St, Ste 110 in Urbandale at 9 AM. Connect with Representative Jennifer Konfrst, Senator Claire Celsi, Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy, and Mayor Mike Jones. Registration is required with in-person registration limited. Virtual attendance is unlimited, however registration is still required to receive the zoom link. Register today by scanning the QR code!

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 February 20.



Heading Out of Town? Let Us Keep a Watch on Your House!

Let our police officers make your house a part of their daily patrol while you're out of town. Just let us know when you'll be leaving and returning, as well as who should have access to your home. Go to www.windsorheights.org then to Police-Programs & Forms under the Departments menu to fill out the form.

Sidewalk Improvement Grant

Sidewalks are an important part of making a community walkable and connecting neighbors. In order to make maintaining sidewalks more affordable, the City offers the Sidewalk Improvement Grant for 50% of the cost for necessary improvements. Properties without existing sidewalks are not required to install sidewalks as part of City Ordinance.



Scan the QR code to learn more and apply!

Fingerprinting Services

The Police Department offers convenient fingerprinting services, ideal for job applications in fields like nursing, life insurance, and more. Windsor Heights residents can get up to two fingerprint cards for just \$10. For residents of other cities, the cost is a flat fee of \$20 for up to two cards. This service is an easy and affordable way to meet job application requirements and ensure a smooth hiring process.

Ensuring Safety for Elderly and Disabled Residents

The Windsor Heights Fire Department provides a crucial service for elderly or disabled residents by changing smoke alarm batteries, ensuring residents' safety. Additionally, the FD offers basic installations of battery-operated smoke alarms, based on availability. This simple task can help protect vulnerable individuals, giving them peace of mind in their homes.

Certified Child Safety Seat Checks Available

Ensure your child's safety with a certified child safety seat check. We have a trained installer ready to help you ensure your seat is properly installed. To schedule an appointment, simply email police@windsorheights.org. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Taking this step can provide peace of mind that your child's safety seat is correctly installed for every ride.

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 (BMPs). 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

We Want to Help You Improve Your Home!

Full details and how to apply to these programs is at www.windsorheights.org or call City Hall at 515-279-3662!



Take control of your energy footprint by adding or replacing items such as solar panels, heat pumps, new efficient HVAC systems, Energy Star windows and doors, and other items.

NFC's Energy Advantage is a \$10,000 deferred loan*, with 0% interest (0.136% APR), that is paired with a NFC repayable and forgivable loan to meet your renovation and energy improvement goals to save on your energy costs.

What is a Deferred Loan? A NFC deferred loan does not have to be repaid until the home is sold, is no longer your primary residence, or in some instances, when the home is refinanced. There are no payments or interest, though you may choose to pay an extra amount on your repayable mortgage. A NFC Loan Originator can provide you with additional information.

The Metro Home Improvement Program is a collaborative effort of eight metro cities with the purpose to preserve affordable housing in these communities. The participating cities are Ankeny, Altoona, Bondurant, Grimes, Polk City, Urbandale, West Des Moines and Windsor Heights. The program has a Management Committee, consisting of one representative from each city, which oversees the policy decisions of the program.



Assistance is for housing repairs and correcting code violations. The awards are in the form of a five-year forgivable loan to eligible households with income less than 80% of the area median income. The Metro Home Improvement Program is administered by the City of West Des Moines. The program is funded through the participating cities and the Polk County Housing Trust Fund.

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

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Featured event: DMPL Storytelling Festival - Saturday, February 22, 10:30 AM-4:30 PM | Franklin Avenue Library

Join us at the 2025 DMPL Storytelling Festival at Franklin Avenue Library! Experience the oral tradition of storytelling throughout the day as our featured storytellers share personal stories and traditional tales. We'll also have family-friendly activities, like face painting, a scavenger hunt, and a craft. Featured events:

10:30-11:15 AM: Kenyan Traditions with Josie Shaw - KIDS & FAMILIES

12:30-1:30 PM: Feathered Pigs, Feisty Princesses, and Imported Cats with Darrin Crow - ALL AGES

2-3 PM: Humorous and Heartwarming Tales with Darrin Crow and Jeff Doyle -TEENS & ADULTS

3:30-4:30 PM: Pole Barn Dreams with Jeff Doyle - ADULTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS: Franklin Avenue Library Public Art Project

The Franklin Avenue Library is looking for artists or artist teams to submit proposals for a new art installation in the library! The installation will be an engaged and/or suspended sculptural installation for the teen area. This project is being taken on in partnership with the Des Moines Public Library Foundation, Friends of the Franklin Avenue Library, and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation. The proposed artwork should be inspired by themes explored in Rick Riordan's fantasy novel series based on Greek mythology, Percy Jackson and the Olympians.

The work should be welcoming, youth-friendly, inclusive, and inspiring to the library's visitors, and particularly, its teen community. Submissions are due at 5 PM on Monday, March 10, to the Des Moines Public Art Foundation. More information, including materials, site-specific dimensions, submission instructions, and more about the selection process and budget, can be found by scanning the QR code.



1/23/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved the submission of a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application with the US Department of Transportation. The grant would help fund the 73rd South of University Reconstruction Project. This is the City's third submission to the highly competitive grant. The City is working with the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Bolton & Menk, the City's engineering firm, to make this the strongest application yet. Recipients are announced in the summer. Council also authorized submitting a grant application with the MPO for additional funding for the project.
- Approved the purchase of 1151 65th Street. The property lies within the Comprehensive Plan's "transitional housing" area. This property is part of a broader redevelopment vision for mixed-use development along University Ave. There are no immediate plans for redevelopment in the area. Until more properties are acquired and redevelopment plans are considered, the City is in talks with non-profit organizations to use the property for temporary housing solutions.
- Approved an agreement with the YMCA to use Colby Park and the Community Center for a summer camp taking place primarily in the open grassy space. As part of the agreement, Windsor Heights residents will be eligible for a discount. The camp is run solely by the YMCA. Any inquiries into the camp should be directed to them. YMCA use of the playground is generally restricted to 7AM-10AM. The park will remain open to the public.
- In preparation for the upcoming budget planning for the City's next fiscal year, Council reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is an important financial tool that serves as an effective guide for prioritizing large projects, such as road reconstruction, for a ten-year planning period. The CIP does not approve any projects and projects are subject to change depending on funding sources. The current CIP is available to view on the City's website.

2025 PET LICENSE OPEN

Register by March 31 to avoid late fees

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

[CLICK HERE](#) [CLICK HERE](#)