



## COMMUNITY NEWS APRIL 2025

### Important Numbers

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

### What's Inside

- Road Construction Update
- Stream Clean-Up
- Sidewalk Repair Grant
- Windsor Heights Podcast
- Property Tax 101
- Library Update
- Council Meeting Recap

### Contact Council

#### Mayor Mike Jones

- [mike.jones@windsorheights.org](mailto:mike.jones@windsorheights.org)

#### Councilor Susan Skeries

- [susan.skeries@windsorheights.org](mailto:susan.skeries@windsorheights.org)

#### Councilor Joseph Jones

- [joseph.jones@windsorheights.org](mailto:joseph.jones@windsorheights.org)

#### Councilor Michael Libbie

- [michael.libbie@windsorheights.org](mailto:michael.libbie@windsorheights.org)

#### Councilor Lauren Campbell

- [lauren.campbell@windsorheights.org](mailto:lauren.campbell@windsorheights.org)

#### Councilor Threase Harms

- [tharms@windsorheights.org](mailto:tharms@windsorheights.org)

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

## Exciting April Events in Windsor Heights: Your Ultimate Guide to Spring Festivities!

**Saturday, April 19 beginning at 9AM - Firefighters Association Easter Egg Hunt**  
Hop on over for a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt with our local firefighters! Bring the kids for a morning of egg-citing adventures, sweet treats, and a chance to meet the heroes who keep our community safe. Don't miss this festive event—fun for all ages! Grab your baskets and join us for an unforgettable time!

**Saturday, April 26 from 12PM to 3PM - Earth Day Celebration and Walnut Creek Watershed Festival**  
Celebrate Earth Day with us in Windsor Heights! Enjoy free crafts, take home a plant, and get up close with live raptors. Start the morning with a stream cleanup and help keep our community beautiful (*More details inside!*). Don't miss this fun-filled event for all ages—let's make a difference together! See you there!

The watershed festival celebrates living in the Walnut Creek Watershed and brings awareness to what watershed residents can do to keep it healthy.

### Friday, May 2 7:45PM - Movies in the Park: Matilda

Join us for the first Movies in the Park of 2025 featuring Matilda! Bring blankets, chairs, and the whole family for a magical night under the stars. Enjoy a free movie, great company, and a fantastic outdoor experience. Don't miss it—see you at the park!



WINDSOR  
HEIGHTS  
the heart of it all

# Andy's Corner!

- Two active road reconstruction projects are currently underway: 73rd St from University Ave to Hickman Road and 68th St. from School St. to University Ave.
- Road work is understandably inconvenient; however, the outcomes of these projects result in a much safer road network and provide for necessary improvements to the infrastructure above and below ground that will last a long time into the future. Please keep in mind that short-term pain is worth the long-term gain! Thank you for your support in these projects.
- Please join us on April 26th down at Colby Park for a Stream Clean-Up of Walnut Creek and an Earth Day Celebration.
- Reminder that the Storm Water Best Management Practices Program is available again this year. Windsor Heights is committed to increasing water quality and decreasing run-off which collect contaminants that eventually lead directly into our water ways. Visit the Public Works Department on the City's website for more information about the program and reimbursement rates.
- The Sidewalk Improvement Grant Program is also available. Each year, a portion of Windsor Heights' sidewalks are inspected for deficiencies. For more information about this year's inspection zone, sidewalk deficiencies, and grant program information, please visit the Public Works page on the City's Website.
- Here are some other projects our crew has been hard at work completing:
  - ◇ Pavement Preservation Roadwork
  - ◇ Spring clean-up in the Parks and along the Windsor Trail
  - ◇ Storm Sewer Cleaning and Televising
  - ◇ Sidewalk Inspections

Sidewalks are an important part of making a community walkable and connecting neighbors. In order to make maintaining sidewalks more affordable, the City rolled out the Sidewalk Improvement Grant for up to 50% of the cost for necessary improvements.

Go to [www.windsorheights.org/782/Sidewalk-Improvement-Grant](http://www.windsorheights.org/782/Sidewalk-Improvement-Grant) to learn more and apply!

Properties without existing sidewalks are not required to install sidewalks as part of City Ordinance.

## 73rd Street Reconstruction

Construction on 73rd Street in Windsor Heights is resuming as part of a multi-phase reconstruction project. Work includes pavement removal, grading, and sidewalk installations, affecting traffic patterns with road closures and detours. Stage 1A started March 17 while Stage 5 continues with improvements such as sodding after this stage completed reconstruction last fall.

Go to [www.windsorheights.org/489/Project-Updates](http://www.windsorheights.org/489/Project-Updates) to learn more about the project! Bookmark the page as updates will be posted regularly.

## Help Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful

Windsor Heights is a great place to live, and we need your help in keeping it clean, safe, and beautiful as the season changes. If you notice a concern around town, let us know by calling City Hall at 515-279-3662 or submitting online report at [windsorheights.org](http://windsorheights.org) and selecting "Report a Concern" under the Residents menu. Here are some reminders of some seasonal code items 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

## Tune In to Windsor Heights: Your Community, Your Stories

Welcome to your go-to podcast for everything happening in the heart of Windsor Heights! Each episode brings you closer to the people, projects, and events that make our community a great place to live, work, and connect.

From city updates and business spotlights to inspiring interviews with community leaders and neighbors making a difference—you'll hear it all right here. Whether you're tuning in for the latest news or a heartwarming local story, there's always something worth listening to.

Listen by going to [www.windsorheights.org/821/City-Podcast](http://www.windsorheights.org/821/City-Podcast)



# Participate in Mow Less May

As a reminder, the City of Windsor Heights does not participate in No Mow May and will still enforce lawn codes all season long. Lawns must remain under 6" tall, and lawn clippings must be kept out of the street.

We do understand many residents want to do their part to create a habitat and food sources for pollinators, so here are a few alternatives to try this year!

- **Participate in Mow Less May:** Studies have shown that mowing every two weeks, as opposed to every week, can still significantly increase bee population size, and many flowering plants will flower even with mowing. Mowing grass at a taller height also promotes healthier lawns. Just be sure to set your mower height higher.
- **Create a Pollinator Garden:** Rather than letting your lawn grow high, install a pollinator garden. Pollinator gardens with a wide variety of species that bloom from early spring to late fall can help support bees, butterflies, and other beneficial pollinators all season long.




You may have recently received a letter from the state regarding property taxes and upcoming hearings. You also may be reading or hearing a lot about property taxes. We know these letters and conversations can be overwhelming. They often times may leave you with more questions than answers.

To help, we've created a Property Tax 101 page to provide clear explanations and guidance at [www.windsorheights.org/822/Property-Tax-101](http://www.windsorheights.org/822/Property-Tax-101)



Still have questions? Submit a question through the online form at the bottom of the Property Tax 101 page or contact City Clerk Adam Strait at 515-645-6810.





### EARTH DAY: STREAM CLEAN UP

SPONSORED BY MARCO'S PIZZA



## 2025 Windsor Heights Stream Clean-Up Details

**Date:** Saturday April 26th  
**Time:** 8:30AM to 11:30AM  
**Location:** Colby Park, 6900 School Street

Go to [www.windsorheights.org/685/Volunteer](http://www.windsorheights.org/685/Volunteer) to register!

Staff will provide gloves, trash bags, grabbers, and support! Our staff routinely maintains Walnut Creek and North Walnut Creek along with The Windsor Trail which sits directly adjacent to the creeks. This past winter, we began some major forestry work along the creek by clearing overgrowth, invasive species, deadwood, and driftwood. This work results in a much healthier environment for desired species to thrive, not to mention a much safer experience for trail users. This work also helps manage and control potentially harmful debris in the floodway and allows us to plan for future projects related to bank stabilization and storm water initiatives. Windsor Heights Public Works takes pride in being able to provide an enjoyable and safe experience for all who use our facilities and visit our community.

Please join us in participating as we clean the streams and banks of trash, litter, and other refuse.

# 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

# AT YOUR LIBRARY

**Featured event: AVID Presents: David Baldacci - Monday, April 21, 7 PM | Franklin Event Center**  
David Baldacci is joining the library for the next Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AVID) event! Baldacci will be at the Franklin Event Center (4801 Franklin Avenue) on Monday, April 21, at 7 PM. Doors will open at 6 PM.

2025

**David Baldacci**



MONDAY, APRIL 21, 7 PM  
FRANKLIN EVENT CENTER  
4801 FRANKLIN AVE.



2025

David Baldacci is a global #1 bestselling author and one of the world's favorite storytellers. His books are published in over 45 languages and in more than 80 countries, with 150 million copies sold worldwide. His popular series include the 6:20 Man, Will Robie, The Memory Man, and many more. His newest book, *Strangers in Time*, is a historical fiction novel set during the London Blitz. The book follows two recently orphaned teenagers and a book store owner that must learn to trust each other to survive each day. It is being published on Tuesday, April 15. You can learn more about Baldacci's program and other upcoming AVID events by going to [dmpl.org/avid](http://dmpl.org/avid).



## **African American Museum of Iowa's Mapping Exclusion: Redlining in Iowa Exhibit - April 1-May 30 | Franklin Avenue Library**

Join us at the Franklin Avenue Library for Mapping Exclusion: Redlining in Iowa. This exhibit from the African American Museum of Iowa explores the impact of housing discrimination and segregation in the state of Iowa. Redlining, the systematic denial of services by government agencies and the private sector to residents of specific neighborhoods, impacted black populations in seven Iowa cities: Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Dubuque, Davenport, Des Moines, and Waterloo.

## **3/17/25 City Council Meeting Recap**

- Chief Udell Mentola presented an update from Westcom, Windsor Heights' emergency dispatch provider.
- Held public hearing on the zoning code amendment of Chapter 175 regarding sign design elements and approved the first reading of the ordinance.
- Council discussed a proposal to improve safety at the intersection of 64th Street and Sunset near Cowles Montessori. The main issues are pedestrian safety during school pick-up and drop-off times, and parking violations. There were several options discussed to address the issues. Council approved additional no parking signs on the west side of 64th Street, painting crosswalks on 64th and Colby Ave as well as Sunset Terrace, non-flashing crosswalk signs, a school zone sign where appropriate, following up on the efforts in the summer months, and continued dialogue with school officials.

## **3/3/25 City Council Meeting Recap**

- Held the public hearing for the FY26-36 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and subsequently approved the CIP.
- Approved the Site Plan at 6500 Hickman Road and directed staff to do further review on the parkland dedication condition of the site plan. Staff will have additional discussions with the property owner and return the condition to the council for approval.
- A motion to approve a professional services agreement for a 63rd Street monument, which would include designing and bidding the project, failed. There was concern regarding the cost of the monument being too high for the value added to the city.