



COMMUNITY NEWS JANUARY 2026

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Say Hello to Your New City Councilor
- Our Thanks to Michael Libbie
- Once Upon a Heights
- Register Your Pets
- 2026 Special Events
- At Your Library

Contact Council

Mayor Mike Jones

- mike.jones@windsorheights.org

Councilor Susan Skeries

- susan.skeries@windsorheights.org

Councilor Joseph Jones

- joseph.jones@windsorheights.org

Councilor Fletcher Barry

- fletcher.barry@windsorheights.org

Councilor Lauren Campbell

- lauren.campbell@windsorheights.org

Councilor Threase Harms

- tharms@windsorheights.org

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

A Letter From Mayor Mike Jones

I hope you had a joyous holiday season and wish you a Happy New Year. We were fortunate to miss any extreme weather events this past year, though we did have the eighth wettest June in history and the wettest July since 1993. This obviously caused construction delays across the City, so we appreciate your patience and recognize the inconvenience it causes you. Like you, we will be thrilled with the completion of 73rd Street and 68th Street South, and with the beginning of work on 74th Street.



In Colby Park, work will begin on an Iowa Confluence Water Trails (ICON) access point in Walnut Creek, a project primarily funded by a MidAmerican Energy Regional Fund grant. This project will include stream restoration, respite areas, limestone stairways, and public art. On the topic of public art, the City has been the recipient of multiple grants from BRAVO, the Greater Des Moines Regional Arts Council. This has allowed the City to commission a public art plan and to secure funding for a mural project at 66th and University Avenue.

Our public safety team had an extremely busy year, and we're proud to announce our partnership with Urbandale and the implementation of a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) at our Police Department. At the Fire Department, we're proud to collaborate in an efficiency study with our neighbors in Clive, Urbandale, and Waukee. Public Works has expanded its maintenance operations to include reconstructing storm intakes, crack sealing, and establishing a brine application plan to reduce wear on our roads.

Please continue to take advantage of the programs that are available to you, be it our street tree program, our stormwater best management practices program, or our sidewalk rehabilitation program. Please continue to take advantage of special events in the community, visit Colby Park, and if you have the time, volunteer!

Please do not hesitate to contact staff or any elected official if you have questions or concerns about what's happening in the City. I wish you a healthy and wonderful 2026. Be kind to one another.

Best wishes,
 Mike Jones

Get to Know Your New Councilmember, Fletcher Barry

Please join us in welcoming Fletcher Barry to the Windsor Heights City Council. Fletcher brings a strong passion for community involvement and regional collaboration, along with a commitment to helping Windsor Heights continue to grow as a welcoming community in the “Heart of it All.”

Fletcher works as the Director of Membership for the Urbandale and Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce and is a graduate of the University of Iowa, where he earned a degree in Sports Management. His priorities on City Council include smart, sustainable growth, maintaining and improving city infrastructure and services, strengthening regional partnerships, and staying connected with residents.

Fletcher will serve on several local and regional committees, including Iowa Confluence Water Trails, the Polk County Housing Solutions Alliance, and multiple city committees focused on economic development, public safety, and public works. He also volunteers on the Board of Directors for the Urbandale Food Pantry.

In his free time, Fletcher enjoys spending time with his wife, Michaela, and their black lab, Suzie, volunteering at city events like Fall Fest and Windsor Wonderland, and cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals and Arsenal FC. Fletcher’s City Council term runs through January 2030, and residents are always welcome to reach out to him at fletcher.barry@windsorheights.org



Thank You for Your Service: Michael Libbie

The City of Windsor Heights thanks Councilmember Michael Libbie for his service on the City Council from 2021 through 2025. During his term, Michael made meaningful contributions to the city through his leadership and commitment to community engagement.

Michael served as Chair of the Economic Development Committee, supported city communications efforts, and helped launch the Windsor Heights Podcast as a new way to connect with residents. He also served on the Public Works Committee and represented Windsor Heights on the Iowa Confluence Water Trails Board.

We are grateful for Michael’s dedication to Windsor Heights and thank him for his service to our community.



A Peek Into Our Past

Once upon a time, Windsor Heights was just beginning to write its story. With the launch of our new monthly series, Once Upon a Heights, we’re opening a storybook filled with snapshots from our past. Each edition uncovers a forgotten moment or familiar place that helped shape the Windsor Heights we know today.

Our first chapter begins in 1921, when the area was still farmland turned neighborhood and residents relied on cooperation instead of city government. With no mayor or council, neighbors organized fundraisers, improved school grounds, and built a sense of belonging that laid the foundation for the city to come. Consider this the prequel to Windsor Heights as we know it today.



 **2026 PET
LICENSE
OPEN**

**Register by March 31
to avoid late fees**

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



Residential and Multi-Family Tax Abatement Program

The City of Windsor Heights offers a Residential and Multi-Family Tax Abatement Program to encourage new housing construction and major property improvements. This program provides a temporary reduction in property taxes on the added value of eligible projects, helping support reinvestment and housing growth in our community.

For residential properties, qualifying new construction or substantial improvements may receive a partial tax exemption on increased property value for up to four years. Multi-family properties with three or more units may qualify for a longer abatement period of up to seven years, depending on the project.

Tax abatements are one of the tools the City uses to promote quality development, expand housing options, and support long-term community growth. To learn more about eligibility and application requirements, visit windsorheights.org or contact City Hall at 515-279-3662.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

B-I-N-G-O! The 2026 DMPL Reading Challenge

Five letters, 24 categories, and tons of fun! The Reading Challenge BINGO is back with a whole new slate of categories! There are several ways to win while completing the BINGO Reading Challenge!

- When you finish your first BINGO, visit any DMPL location to get your special finisher button.
- If you complete "blackout" (finishing every category), come to the library and receive a "super reader" sticker made just for our reading challenge finishers.

We've added reading recommendation lists for each category to our catalog. Check out dmpl.org/reading-challenge to register for the challenge.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Program

Join the Des Moines Public Library for our annual celebration in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Our keynote speaker is Bo James, a cultural innovator, community leader, and Believer/Executive Director of Hip Hope Inc, a local non-profit. After a short introduction by the Friends of the Forest Avenue Library, Bo James will speak. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Forest Avenue Library.

All six DMPL locations will be closed in recognition of the holiday. Forest Avenue Library will only be open during the MLK Day Program. Doors open at 3:30PM.

12/15/25 City Council Meeting Recap

- The City discussed renewing the Walnut Creek YMCA's summer day camp use of Colby Park in 2026 following a successful 2025 pilot with few issues. Staff recommended continuing under similar terms, including a \$10 weekly discount for Windsor Heights residents, while increasing the city fee from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to reflect staff time and resources. Discussion focused on clarifying hours, sharing park amenities, coordination with food vendors, and a possible short soccer camp, with a proposed agreement coming to Council on January 20.
- The City considered and supported a resolution approving an MOU with Urbandale, Waukee, Clive, and Windsor Heights to jointly conduct a fire and EMS consulting study through the Center for Public Safety Management. The study will examine operations, staffing, facilities, response times, governance, and opportunities for further collaboration, with the goal of improving service delivery and cost efficiency. The study is expected to begin early next year with coordinated communication among participating cities.

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

2026 Events

April

TBA - Firefighters Association Easter Egg Hunt
25 - Earth Day Celebration

1 - Movies in the Park
22 - Touch a Truck

May

5 - Movies in the Park
5-6 - City-Wide Garage Sale*
13 - Spring Cleanup*
28 - Windsor Heights Foundation Ice Cream Social *
30 - Nights in the Heights

June

7 - Nights in the Heights
14 - Nights in the Heights
21 - Nights in the Heights
28 - Nights in the Heights + National Night Out

July

August 7 - Movies in the Park

4 - Movies in the Park

Sept

Oct

2-3 - Fall Fest + Movies in the Park

11 - Veteran's Day Luncheon

Nov

Dec

5 - Windsor Wonderland + Movies in the Park

* = City wide events. All other events take place at Colby Park.

Movies in the Park start at sundown.

Nights in the Heights is put on by the Windsor Heights Foundation.

LEARN MORE

