



## COMMUNITY NEWS FEBRUARY 2026

### 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
- Community through Public Art
- Home Improvement Programs
- Council Meeting Recap

### 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!

### City Budget Planning Underway

The City Council and City staff are beginning the annual process of developing the FY 2027 City Budget. The budget will guide City operations and services for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. As part of this process, the City will hold several public hearings at city council meetings to gather input and formally adopt the budget.

#### Important Budget Dates:

- **March 2** – Public Hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan and determination of the proposed property tax levy rate
- **April 6** – Public Hearing on the proposed tax levy rate
- **April 20** – Public Hearing and adoption of the final City Budget

Residents are encouraged to attend these council meetings in person at 1133 66th Street or online to learn more about how the City plans for the coming year. Meetings begin at 6 PM. Agendas, posted by the Friday prior to the meeting, and the Zoom link can be accessed on the City's website here: [www.windsorheights.org/786/Agenda-Center](http://www.windsorheights.org/786/Agenda-Center)

#### What Does the Tax Levy Rate Mean?

The tax levy rate is used to calculate the portion of your property taxes that supports City services. It is applied to your property's taxable value to help fund essential community services such as:

- Public safety
- Snow and ice control
- Street maintenance and improvements
- Parks, trails, and public spaces

A property's taxable valuation is determined by the County Assessor and is based on assessed value minus any applicable exemptions, such as those for veterans or homeowners age 65 and older.

#### How City Property Taxes Fit Into Your Total Bill

The average Windsor Heights homeowner pays approximately \$1,600–\$1,700 per year in City property taxes. City government represents about 37% of a resident's total property tax bill, though this can vary depending on which school district serves a home. The remaining portion supports other public services, including local schools, Polk County, Des Moines Area Community College, and Broadlawns Medical Center.

Turn the page to learn more about the City services and projects your tax dollars support!

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.

Full details and how to apply is at [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org). Look for Home

Improvement Benefits under the Residents menu or call City Hall at 515-279-3662.



## Stormwater Best Management Program

- \* 75% Reimbursed
  - Rain Gardens
  - Rain Barrels
  - Soil Quality Restoration
  - Native Planting

The Metro Home Improvement Program is a regional housing preservation program that helps income qualified homeowners make necessary home repairs and correct code violations. Windsor Heights participates with several other metro cities, and the program provides assistance in the form of five year forgivable loans to eligible owner occupied households with incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income.

The program is administered by the Mid Iowa Planning Alliance and serves a limited number of households based on available funding. For more information and questions, please contact Mid Iowa Planning Alliance by calling 515-304-3524 or emailing [housing@midowaplanning.org](mailto:housing@midowaplanning.org).

## 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](http://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.

[Click here 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](mailto: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.

# Andy's Corner!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to drive a snowplow? Take the driver's seat in one of the City's Plow Trucks from the comfort of your own (warm) home! The Public Works Department can now share photos of weather and road conditions during a storm straight from a plow that is out on the road. Let our staff be the ones out on the roads when winter weather arrives so you don't have to! Photos will be shared on the City's social media sites.



**Did you know?** The Public Works Department monitors pavement temperature, not air temperature, when determining application rates and methods of treating the roads with salt? This not only helps us reduce material costs but also allows us to be more mindful about introducing excess chlorides into the environment.

70th Street Road Closure (Hickman Rd to Wilshire Blvd): Des Moines Water Works will begin a feeder water main project on February 4, 2026. This work is part of a larger project that stretches from 70th St in Windsor Heights to Merle Hay Road in Des Moines along Hickman Road. The project is designed to bolster the distribution system of Des Moines Water Works and the increased demand as the metro area continues to grow. The work along 70th Street from Hickman Road to Wilshire Blvd. is estimated to be complete by March 31, 2026. Project questions and concerns should be directed straight to Des Moines Water Works at 515-283-8700.

Here are some other projects we've been hard at work completing:

- Storm Sewer Inspections
- Filling potholes due to freeze/thaw cycle
- Inventory update and assessments of City owned Right of Way Trees
- Continued maintenance and service to snow removal equipment

## Celebrating Community Through Public Art

The City of Windsor Heights has launched a new Public Art Program to enhance shared spaces and reflect the character of the community. Public art including murals, sculptures, and installations can help create welcoming and engaging places in parks, along trails, along streets, and in other public areas used every day by residents and visitors.

In June 2025, the City Council adopted the Windsor Heights Public Art Plan, which outlines a long term vision for incorporating art into public spaces throughout the city. The plan was developed with community input and provides guidance for future projects, artist selection, and funding opportunities.

The first project under the program will be a community mural located at 6587 University Avenue on the west wall along 66th Street. This project is supported by a grant from Bravo Greater Des Moines. Additional public art projects and opportunities for community involvement will be shared as the program continues to develop.

2026 PET  
LICENSE  
OPEN  
Register by March 31

to avoid late fees

Spayed/Neutered - \$20

Unfixed - \$30



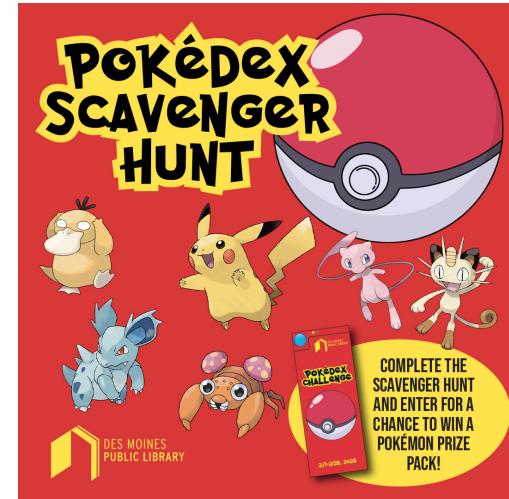
## How's Our Newsletter?

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

## Pokémon Scavenger Hunt February 1-28

Become a Pokémon master at the Des Moines Public Library! We're celebrating the 30th anniversary of Pokémon with a systemwide scavenger hunt! Grab a library Pokédex while visiting the library and head to all six library locations, finding all the Pokémon in the Pokédex along the way. Turn in your completed Pokédex before March 2, and you'll be entered into a drawing for a Pokémon prize pack. Good luck on catching em' all throughout the month of February.



## Indie Lens Pop-Up Screening: The Inquisitor

**Wednesday, February 25, 6 PM | Central Library**

Join us for a free screening of a renowned documentary followed by a brief discussion. The Inquisitor explores the life and legacy of Barbara Jordan, a groundbreaking Texas congresswoman whose sharp intellect and moral clarity transformed U.S. politics. From Nixon's impeachment to civil rights battles, her voice demanded accountability.

## Retirement University at the Franklin Avenue Library

**Thursday, February 19, 6:30 PM** – Social Security & Medicare

**Thursday, February 26, 6:30 PM** – Investment & Taxes

**Thursday, March 5, 6:30 PM** – Long-term Care and Legacy Planning

Join the library and the Society for Financial Awareness for a series of free programs to help you plan for retirement. Each session will cover different topics. Come to any or all programs. No registration required.

## City Seeks Community Input on YMCA Partnership

The City of Windsor Heights is exploring potential partnership opportunities with the Walnut Creek Family YMCA to expand programs and services available to Windsor Heights residents. As part of this process, the City is seeking feedback directly from the community. Resident input will help guide discussions and inform future decisions about possible programming, amenities, and services that could benefit the community.

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts by completing the survey [by clicking here](#). Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and help shape opportunities for Windsor Heights.

## 1/20/26 City Council Meeting Recap

- Council reviewed next steps for the Colby Park Master Plan, including completed improvements, remaining priorities, and a proposed 2030 capital project coordinating parking lot reconstruction, stormwater improvements, and tennis/pickleball courts. Council expressed general support for the proposed approach, determined the dog park membership program is not a current priority, and took no formal action.
- Council reviewed the draft Capital Improvement Plan and Equipment Replacement Plan, including updated project priorities, cost estimates, and scheduling through 2030, as well as proposed adjustments to street, utility, and stormwater projects. Department heads also provided overviews of planned equipment and technology replacements, and no formal action was taken.
- Council discussed initiating a full update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, which serves as the community's long-range guide for land use, development, infrastructure, and policy decisions. Staff outlined a proposed consultant-led update process, timeline, and estimated cost. Consensus was in favor of staff's proposal.
- Council approved a resolution accepting a \$40,000 Bravo public art grant to support the 6587 University Ave mural project. The mural will enhance the downtown area and will be coordinated with a consultant-led artist selection process.
- Council approved a resolution entering into a use agreement with the YMCA for use of Colby Park for youth programming, which will include a Windsor Heights resident discount. More information from the YMCA can be found at [www.dymca.org/](http://www.dymca.org/)