



COMMUNITY NEWS December 2023

Important Numbers

City Hall 515-279-3662

Public Safety 515-277-4453

Emergencies 911

What's Inside

- Windsor Wonderland
- Project Spotlight: 73rd Street Corridor
- Library Happenings
- Stay Safe Using Less Deicing Salt
- Holiday Message from City Council
- Winter Yard Waste Pickup
- Light the Heights
- Council Recap

Calendar of Events

December 18

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

December 25 & 26

- City Buildings Closed for Christmas

January 1

- City Buildings Closed for New Years Day

January 15

- City Buildings Closed for MLK Day

Click here for more events!



Colby Park Improvements Coming in 2024

During the November 6, 2023 City Council meeting, council approved a bid from Caliber Concrete, LLC to complete the first phase of Colby Park improvements.

Demolition work has begun which includes the permanent closure of the tennis courts and closure of the playground area. Construction is expected to begin in April 2024 with substantial completion by the end of September 2024. All work will be weather dependent and this time frame may change as planning continues.

Phase 1 Improvements include:

- Removing the traffic circle and installing a new plaza entry
- Removing existing playground and installing a new playground
- Installing a splashpad
- Relocating gardens
- Relocating recycling facilities
- Additional Parking

Phase 1 will also have a number of accessibility improvements:

- The addition of inclusive playground equipment
- Sidewalks and curbs in front of existing stalls will be ADA compliant
- New ramps will be installed in both the front and back of the Community Center; the front ramp will include railings

Holiday Magic Comes Alive at Windsor Wonderland

The City kicked off the holiday season by turning Colby Park into a Windsor Wonderland with an ugly sweater fun run, santa visit, horse-drawn carriage rides and more holiday fun!

Thank you to everyone that attended, our volunteers, city staff, and sponsors who made it a success.



AT YOUR LIBRARY

Join a Book Club!

The Des Moines Public Library offers at least one monthly book discussion group at all of its locations. In December, Franklin Avenue Library hosts two book clubs. Books are available to borrow at the help desk:

- Monday, December 11, 1-2 PM: Taste Makers: Seven Immigrant Women Who Revolutionized Food in America, by Mayukh Sen.
- Thursday, December 14, 6:30-7:30 PM: The Sentence, by Louise Erdrich.



Featured event: It's Not a New Year's Eve Party!

Friday, December 29, 10 AM-5 PM

Stop by as a family and join us in the children's area for crafts and activities to get ready for that special night. All ages are welcome!

Storytime break

Just a note: All library locations will be on a storytime break from December 18-29. Please check the online calendar at dmpl.org/events.



Snow Ordinance Reminders

Windsor Heights is a great place to live, and your help is needed in keeping it clean, safe, and beautiful.

Winter is officially here which means snow, and we need your help to keep sidewalks safe and roads cleared. How can you do your part?

- Don't park on the street within 24 hours of any snowfall (per City Code Chapter 60.10.10, violators may be ticketed)
- Don't push snow from your property into the street
- Clear sidewalks within 48 hours after snow ends

If you notice a concern around town, let us know by calling City Hall at 515-279-3662 or submitting it online at www.windsorheights.org and selecting "[Report a Concern](#)" on the homepage.

Project Spotlight

The 73rd Street Multimodal Corridor project includes a segment of 73rd Street that extends from University Avenue to the north to Center Street to the South. The project includes a new eight-foot sidewalk, high visibility pedestrian crossing markings, correction of the curvature of the roadway, installation of a raised median, railroad crossing arms, and adjustments to the I-235 ramp.

This project will address major safety and inefficiency issues while also helping to eliminate barriers to jobs, education, health and human services, retail locations, and recreational opportunities.

To view additional project information and provide comments, please visit raisewindsorheights.com.

Happy Holidays

From Your City Council

My heartfelt greetings for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. We are fortunate to call you our neighbors and blessed to be able to call Windsor Heights our home. – Mayor Mike Jones

May the holiday season bring you prosperity, health, and lots of love! Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! – Councilor Susan Skeries

On behalf of my family to yours, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. Remember to take time to count your blessings and reflect on how fortunate we all are to call Windsor Heights home. May you and your family have a wonderful holiday and peace, love and joy in the New Year. – Councilor Threase Harms

It is truly the season of light! From lighting the Chanukah Menorah for eight nights to the Christmas decorations that bring their light to the festival. May you have a meaningful Chanukah and Christmas...be a light to the world. – 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

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

WINTER YARD WASTE COLLECTION

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. Note: Wreaths and garland are NOT accepted.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Delayed due to New Years Day

January 8, 2024

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 Saturday, December 16 at www.windsorheightsfoundation.org.

Luminary kits (candles, paper bags, and sand) may be picked up at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Thursday, December 28 from 2 to 6 PM.

11/20/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Tabled consideration of entering into a proposal for space needs to further research the City's past space needs analyses
- Approved code review agreement with Simmering-Cory which will update the City code to reflect current state laws as well as update out of date processes
- Approved the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 183 (Mobile Food Units)
- Approved the First Reading of Ordinance No. 23-06 An Ordinance Amending Chapters 165 through 177 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Windsor Heights Related to Zoning
- Approved the Second Reading and Waiving the Third Reading of Ordinance No.23-09 - An Ordinance Adding Section 60.08.08 (Pedestrian Safety, Use of Medians); and to Adopt and Publish
- Approved the Third Reading of Ordinance No. 23-08 - An Ordinance Amending Section 1.12 (Warrants) Regarding Administrative Search Warrants; and to Adopt and Publish
- Began discussion on City Council Goals. Staff will review that accomplishments of the 2023 Council Goals and bring back to council at a future meeting

11/6/23 City Council Meeting Recap

- Held Public Hearings on the Proposed Contract Documents and Estimated Costs for Repair or Improvement of Colby Park and Ordinance No. 23-06 - An Ordinance Amending Chapters 165 through 177 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Windsor Heights Related to Zoning
- Approved the bid from Caliber Concrete, LLC including all alternatives which include expanded parking stalls, overhead structures around the splashpad, upgrade seatwall to cast stone, expand existing irrigation system, and add chain link fence at Public Works
- Approved Metronet Service Agreement for Community Center which will bring free public Wi-Fi to Colby Park
- Approved Iowa Department of Transportation Funding Agreement which will help fund Phase 1 of the 73rd Street reconstruction project
- Approved the First Reading of Ordinance No. 23-09 - An Ordinance Adding Section 60.08.08 (Pedestrian Safety, Use of Medians)
- Approved the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 23-08 - An Ordinance Amending Section 1.12 (Warrants) Regarding Administrative Search Warrants
- Approved the Third Reading of Ordinance No. 23-07 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 180.06 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Windsor Heights Related to Conditional Use Permit Standards for Approval; and to Adopt and Publish