



## COMMUNITY NEWS February 2024

### Important Numbers

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

### What's Inside

- City Budget Planning
- Library Update
- How to Avoid Ice Build Up Around Your Home
- Programs to Help Pay For Home Improvements
- Register Your Pets
- February Talk with Officials

### 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 [click here](#) to contact Council as well!

Have you ever wondered how the City puts on events such as Fall Fest or Movies in the Park? Or thought to yourself how you could be more involved in your community?

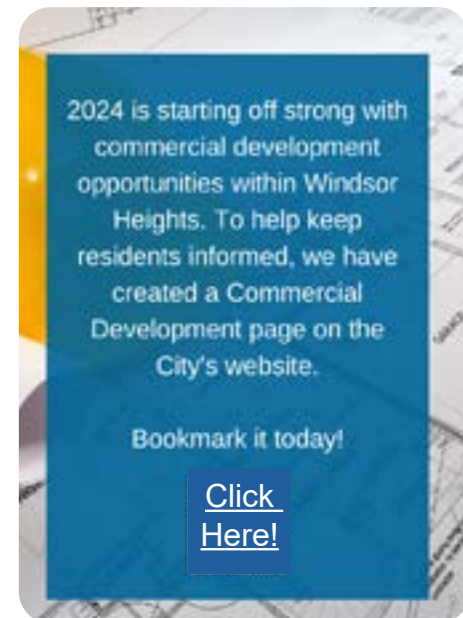
The answer is simple. Volunteer!

Through the simple act of volunteering, you are able to support the amazing FREE events the City hosts while also meeting neighbors and deepening your roots in the community. We also have opportunities to sit on city committees that provide valuable resident feedback when the City is making important decisions.

To see what opportunities are currently open as well as sign up to be notified when opportunities are available, [click here!](#)



Never miss a collection week! 2024 Curb It! magnets are available to pick up at City Hall during regular business hours. Can't make it in during business hours? Call City Hall at 279-3662 to request a magnet be mailed to you.



# Planning of 2025 City Budget Begins

City staff has been hard at work preparing the 2025 City Budget. The budget outlines a spending plan for the next fiscal year starting July 1.

Important Dates including public forums are as follows:

**February 19** Council Meeting - Budget & Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Review Work Session. The CIP is a ten-year plan identifying the City's capital outlay and improvement needs. This helps guide future policy regarding physical and economic maintenance and development such as street reconstruction, park improvements, stormwater projects, and more

**March 4** Council Meeting - A Public Hearing is held for the CIP and Council approves a Proposed Tax Rate Levy  
*\*Stay tuned for March's newsletter where we'll cover the Proposed Tax Rate Levy and what it means for you*

**April 1** Council Meeting - A Public Hearing is held for the Proposed Tax Rate Levy

**April 15** Council Meeting - A Public Hearing is held for the Adoption of the FY25 Budget



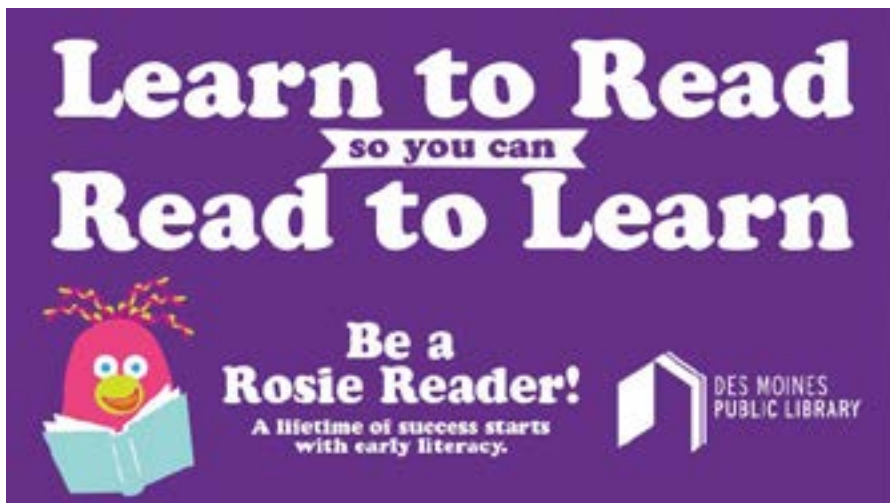
## AT YOUR LIBRARY

### Did you know?

You can check out everything from board games to waffle makers to 3-D printers to DVD players from our Library of Things? You can place holds online, then have the item delivered to your library of choice for pickup. See the full list of items and how it works at [dmpl.org/library-of-things/](https://dmpl.org/library-of-things/)

### Be a Rosie Reader!

A lifetime of success starts with early literacy, and everyone has a role to play to ensure children become successful readers, students, and citizens. That's why the Des Moines Public Library is dedicated to advancing the cause with our new Rosie Reader early literacy initiative. Watch testimonials, find early literacy information, see how you can be involved, and more at [dmpl.org/rosie-reader](https://dmpl.org/rosie-reader).





# Avoid Winter Ice by Improving Your Infrastructure

Winter can feel like an ongoing battle against snow and ice. Have you noticed any particular areas that are repeatedly difficult to keep clear of snow and ice? Some common problems that continuously create pesky ice are roof gutters, uneven pavement and snow storage placement.

Does your gutter route to a sidewalk or driveway? Consider rerouting the gutter to avoid the repeated creation of icy spots. The property pictured below would benefit from rerouting their gutter so that it does not discharge onto the walkway. Another thing to consider is closing the walkway for the winter. Does it feel like your driveway is an ice-skating rink every morning? Ensure that your pavement is even so that water does not pool in one area and create ice. Where do you push your snow? If you push your snow on the high end of your property, chances are on sunny days it will melt right back onto your pavement, creating ice and more work for you. Consider pushing your snow to the low end of your property, so that your snow pile does not melt back onto your walkways.

If you can identify why icy patches are repeatedly forming and fix the problem, you may save yourself lots of time and effort this winter. Avoid the use of deicing salt as too much salt damages our infrastructure and pollutes our local waterways.

## We Want to Help You Improve Your Home!

Full details and how to apply to these programs [click here](#) or call City Hall at 515-279-3662!



### Stormwater Best Management Program

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

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 (BMP's). Stormwater is water from rain, snowmelt, and surface drainage that runs off impervious surfaces such as paved surfaces, roofs, and compacted lawns.

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](mailto:astrait@windsorheights.org) or call 515-279-3662

## Talk with Officials

Talk with Officials is back on Saturday, February 24th at 8:30 AM to connect residents with State, County, and City elected officials representing Windsor Heights. The forum will include Mayor Mike Jones, Rep. Jennifer Konfrst, Senator Claire Celsi, and Polk Co. Supervisor Matt McCoy.

The Talk with Officials event is open to the public and held on the last Saturday of each respective month throughout the legislative session. Registration is required with in-person registration limited. Virtual attendance is unlimited, however registration is still required to receive the zoom link.

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](mailto:tmenke@urbandalechamber.com) on or before February 22nd.

[Click here to register.](#)



**2024 PET  
LICENSE  
OPEN**

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

Spayed/Neutered - \$20

Unfixed - \$30

[Click  
Here!](#)



## 1/17/23 Board of Adjustment Meeting Recap

- Hive House - 1101 64th St Conditional Use Permit - The Board tabled the application requesting further information on the future tax status of the property and how it affects neighboring residents.
- Casey's - 6961 University Ave Conditional Use Permit - The Board tabled the application requesting further information on the traffic impact, plant list of the property, and comprehensive plan.

## 1/16/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Discussed the Windsor Heights Foundation Support Request for the 2024 Nights in the Heights Concert Series in the Amount of \$15,000. The request will be further discussed by the Special Events committee. A recommendation will then be sent to the Finance Committee for FY25 budget consideration.
- Approved Resolution No. 2024-02 - A Resolution Authorizing the City of Windsor Heights to Submit an Application for Funding from the Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside Program to the Des Moines Area MPO for the Partial Funding of the Construction of Greenbelt Trail Reconstruction and Further Approving the Application Which Obligates the City of Windsor Heights to Matching Funds for the Construction of Said Project
- Discussed Resolution No. 2023-67 - A Resolution Approving Updating the CEC Guidelines and Information for the City of Windsor Heights. Council would like further discussion on the guidelines and will be holding a work session at a future date.
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-64 - A Resolution Approving an Updated Fee Schedule for the City of Windsor Heights except the Community Center rental fees
- Discussed the University Avenue Pole Banners. A consensus was made for option C and removing the tag line "Heart of it All" from the logo. View the agenda packet at [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org) to see the option chosen.