



## COMMUNITY NEWS JANUARY 2025

### Important Numbers

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

### What's Inside

- Consider Using Less Salt
- Share Your Neighbors Achievements
- Public Works Update
- Connect with Your Representatives
- 2025 Special Events
- 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!

### A Letter From Mayor Mike Jones

I hope your 2024 was prosperous and wish you good tidings for the coming year. In the past 12 months, we dealt with two extreme weather events, including an actual tornado and the wettest July since 1993 which caused several construction delays across the City. We recognize those delays inconvenienced residents, and we appreciate your patience. Despite those delays, the multimillion-dollar Colby Park refresh opened on time for the Fall Festival, and phase one of the 73rd Street reconstruction project opened for the winter. Work on 73rd Street will continue this spring, and several new projects will begin, including the reconstruction of 68th Street south.



Solar panels were installed on the Community Events Center as the City continues to work towards meeting its 24-7 clean energy goal. The right-of-way tree program and the tiny tree giveaway will continue in 2025 as we work to rebuild our urban canopy.

As always, we offer to cost-share with residents who do stormwater improvement projects on their property such as soil quality restoration or rain gardens. After years of work, we have completed the requirements to join the Federal Community Rating System and residents in the flood plain will receive discounts on flood insurance policies. To address regional flooding issues, we have set aside a percentage of stormwater fees to be dedicated to Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority projects, as work across the watershed can impact us here in Windsor Heights.

Special events continue to be a resounding success thanks to the work of a small team of dedicated volunteers. The Fall Festival had over 5,500 attendees across two days, and Windsor Wonderland had over 1,500. These events are made possible by elected officials, staff, and residents. But we need more volunteers, and if we don't get more, the special events schedule will have to be scaled back. Please keep an eye out for volunteering opportunities!

Please do not hesitate to contact any elected official if you have questions or concerns about what's happening in the City. I wish you a healthy and wonderful 2025. Be kind to one another.



**WINDSOR  
HEIGHTS**  
the heart of it all

1145 66th St, Suite 1  
Windsor Heights, IA 50324

# Celebrating Our Neighbors: Share Their Achievements and Stories!

We want to celebrate our amazing community! Do you know a neighbor who's achieved something special—awards, promotions, retirements, or simply being a great neighbor? Share their story with us! Submit their accomplishments for recognition, and let's honor the incredible people who make our neighborhood shine. [Click here to submit today and inspire others!](#) You can also email City Clerk Adam Strait at [astrait@windsorheights.org](mailto:astrait@windsorheights.org). Those recognized will be shared in a future newsletter.

## Shaping the Future of Public Art in Windsor Heights: Share Your Input!

The City of Windsor Heights is currently in the development stage of a public art plan which will guide the vision for what public art can accomplish in our community. This plan will address goals and community priorities, as well as guidelines for the program. Community input is an important part of the discovery phase. [Click here take this 5-minute survey to give us your feedback!](#)

### AT YOUR LIBRARY

**Featured Event: CultureAll Open Book Thursday, January 23, 6:30-8 PM | Franklin Avenue Library**

CultureAll's Open Book is a community project where people are "books" and you are the "reader" who hears their personal stories. Join us at this special event to hear from two speakers:

- **Trevy Augustin**, a Micronesian American who will discuss how her professional and personal lives revolve around navigating difference and dialogue.
- **Lilian Okech**, an entrepreneur and author who co-founded an organization bringing internet and computer training to people in South Sudan.

### Read Books, Win Prizes in 2025!

The DMPL Reading Challenge is back — and this year, we're playing BINGO! Read books from our chosen genre categories and fill in your BINGO card online with our Beanstack app. Win a prize for getting a BINGO, and read a book from every category to earn a blackout and a chance at a special grand prize! Go to [dmpl.org/readingchallenge](http://dmpl.org/readingchallenge) to register and learn more!

## Andy's Corner!

- The Winter Season is upon us. Please stay safe when traveling this winter. Be cautious and courteous, especially when road conditions deteriorate. Our plow trucks start to clear streets with 1" or more of accumulation. Our crew starts by clearing the main roads throughout town first, and then they turn their focus onto the residential streets. For us to effectively clear the entire roadway network, please avoid parking on the street if the forecast calls for a winter weather event.
- The Public Works Department will be working on clearing overgrown undergrowth, deadwood, and invasive species and maintaining free and clear water channels of Walnut Creek and North Walnut Creek as part of our Urban Forestry Maintenance Program. The areas of focus this winter will be from Colby Park south to Center St. and College Dr. north to Hickman Road. This also will include the removal of any vegetation along all bridge abutments in town. With the foliage off the trees, it is advantageous for us to get equipment in these areas this time of year. Another goal of this program, besides what is listed above, is to set the City up for future storm water/streambank stabilization projects by providing access to these sites. Mature trees in good health will be protected and left standing.



**2025 PET  
LICENSE  
OPEN**

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

Spayed/Neutered - \$20

Unfixed - \$30



## Save Money While Using Less Salt

Deicing salt can be a valuable tool to keep us safe in the winter. However, a bag of salt ends up costing a lot more than \$10. Salt is corrosive, as you may have noticed from the rust on your car or pitted concrete. Salt damages not only vehicles, but buildings, sidewalks, plants and more. Salt can impact infrastructure like bridges and streetlights. Salt damage is not limited to the outdoors; it gets tracked into buildings and damages carpets and floors. Every ton of salt applied can create \$1,700 to \$17,000 of infrastructure damage, a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report found. How much salt do you use?

Winter maintenance professionals work hard to keep us safe. Give plows time and space to do their jobs. Plows must drive slowly to ensure the applied salt doesn't bounce off the road. Don't expect winter roads to be 100% clear and perfect. We are all trying to be responsible salt users.

The use of salt to keep us safe can feel inevitable. Make sure to shovel early and often after snow falls to prevent ice and reduce your use of salt. Salt is a pollutant that stays in our local water forever. Future generations will be paying the price for the salt we put down today.

## Talk With Officials!

Talk with Officials is a forum designed to connect residents with State, County, and City elected officials representing Windsor Heights. The Talk with Officials event is open to the public and will be held Saturday, January 25 at the Aisha R. Syed Board Room, 2830 100th St, Ste 110 in Urbandale at 9 AM. Connect with Representative Jennifer Konfrst, Senator Claire Celsi, Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy, and Mayor Mike Jones. Registration is required with in-person registration limited. Virtual attendance is unlimited, however registration is still required to receive the zoom link. [Register today by clicking here!](#)

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 January 23rd.

## 12/16/24 City Council Meeting Recap

- Discussed a proposed YMCA Summer Camp at Colby Park. The camp would operate from approximately 6 am to 6 pm, with flexibility in the start time. The YMCA would offer a \$1,000 cash donation for the use of the park and discounted rates for Windsor Heights residents. The camp would accommodate 60 to 75 kids, with the possibility of reducing the number if necessary. Discussion also included the possibility of using the Community Center for activities on rain days and the need for coordination with other park users. Council directed staff to bring a formal agreement back for approval.
- Approved the plans for the 68th Street South Reconstruction Project and opened bidding. The public hearing for the bids will be held during the February 3 council meeting. Discussion did include CenturyLink's decision to adjust services due to the project. City staff clarified that there were no restrictions preventing CenturyLink from continuing to offer any services due to the project, but it was a private business decision. Council directed staff to review taking the concerns to the Utilities Commission.
- Approved the barrier and sign alternative D at the corner of 63rd Street and the I-235 west-bound on ramp. Concerns were raised about the need for the barrier due to a minimal number of traffic accidents at the intersection. The item passed by a 3-2 vote. Councilors Jones, Campbell, and Harms voted yes. Councilors Skeries and Libbie voted no.
- Approved Colby Park's food truck plaza dining seating. This was first presented at the November 18 meeting when Council provided design feedback. Seating will be a mixture of jessie rails, which are leaning table-top rails, and take-out style benches, which are picnic tables that offer wheelchair accessible seating.
- Approved the 2025 Special Events Calendar. National Night Out is still tentative as it is a Police Department planned event and factors such as staffing determine the departments ability to host the event. A date night Movies in the Park is still being looked for late summer as well.

## 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



# 2025 Events

*April*

19 - Firefighters Association Easter Egg Hunt  
26 - Earth Day Celebration

2- Movies in the Park

30 - Touch a Truck & Colby Park Ribbon Cutting

*May*

6 - Movies in the Park

6-7 - City-Wide Garage Sale\*

14 - Spring Cleanup\*

*June*

22 - Windsor Heights Foundation Ice Cream Social \*

*August*

1 - Movies in the Park

5 - National Night Out

5 - Movies in the Park

*Sept*

*Oct*

3-4 - Fall Fest + Movies in the Park

11 - Veteran's Day Luncheon

*Nov*

*Dec*

6 - 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 dates will be shared in the February newsletter

**LEARN MORE**

