



COMMUNITY NEWS July 2025

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Road Construction Update
- We'll Watch Your House During Vacation
- If They're Knocking, They Need a Permit
- New Podcast Episode Out
- Let the City Help Pay for Some Improvements

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

Tree of Heaven is Invading—Here's How You Can Help

The Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), also known as Chinese sumac or stink tree, is an invasive species spreading rapidly in Windsor Heights. Often mistaken for native sumac, it grows aggressively, produces foul-smelling leaves, and releases chemicals that harm surrounding plants.



Effective Removal Matters

Simply cutting down the Tree of Heaven is not enough—doing so without proper treatment often leads to the tree sending out vigorous root suckers. The preferred method is a basal bark herbicide treatment prior to cutting. This ensures the tree is fully killed and prevents regrowth.

Free Treatment Service Offered by the City

To help residents combat this invasive species, the City's Parks Department is offering free basal bark treatment. Here's how it works:

1. Visit City Hall during regular business hours to fill out a request form and receive pink ribbon(s) to mark the tree(s) for treatment.
2. City staff will apply the herbicide and attach a second ribbon with the treatment date.
3. After 30 days, you may safely cut down the tree, confident that new saplings won't sprout.

Let's work together to protect Windsor Heights' natural environment—one tree at a time.

Road Project Updates

Forest Ct. Overlay

The street overlay on Forest Ct., between 64th St. and 66th St., is expected to be completed during the week of July 7th, weather permitting.

73rd Street Reconstruction

- Stage 1 (North of University Ave.)
Pavement removal for Stage 1B will begin in early July. During this phase, traffic will shift to Stage 1A, which is the west side of 73rd St..
- Stage 4 (Near Clive Learning Center)
Pavement removal and water main installation are complete. The contractor is now working on the stormwater system. 73rd St. between Del Matro and College Drive will remain closed until late August, aligned with the start of the new school year.

68th Street Reconstruction

- Stage 1 (South End)
School St. has reopened. Street pavement and driveway work is anticipated to be completed in late July.
- Stage 2 (North End)
Water main installation is underway. Underground work at the University Ave. and 68th St. intersection is expected to wrap up by mid-July, which will help reduce traffic disruptions along University Ave.

General Note - All timelines are subject to weather conditions and unforeseen underground infrastructure challenges, which are common during reconstruction of aging infrastructure systems. Weekly Construction Updates on our website at www.windsorheights.org

House Watch & Safety Tips

Heading out of town? Let the Windsor Heights Police help keep your home secure with a free Vacation House Check.

While you're preparing for vacation, here are some quick tips to protect your home:

- **Inspect your property** for easy access points like sliding doors or window A/C units.
- **Lock all doors and windows** before leaving.
- **Skip the hidden key**—instead, give a spare to a trusted neighbor or family member.
- **Use timers** for lights or a radio to make your home look occupied.
- **Lock your vehicles**, especially if they contain garage door openers.
- **Hide or secure valuables**—avoid leaving boxes from expensive items at the curb, and use a safe deposit box when possible.
- **Photograph valuables** and record serial/model numbers to help recover stolen items.
- **Don't advertise your absence**—pause mail/newspapers, arrange lawn care, and hold off on vacation posts until you return.

Notify us if you come home early so we can update your house check.

[Sign up here.](#) Stay safe and enjoy your trip!

Drive Hands Free

As of July 1, 2025, a new Iowa law prohibits drivers from holding or manually using cell phones and other electronic devices while driving. This includes typing messages, entering GPS addresses, scrolling social media, or watching videos.

Drivers must now use devices hands-free or with voice commands. A single touch to activate a function—such as answering a call—is allowed.

Solicitors Need a Permit to Knock

Each year, door-to-door soliciting raises questions from Windsor Heights residents. Most solicitors must obtain a City-issued permit and present it upon request. Certain groups—such as civic organizations, school groups, and others—are exempt under City Code Chapter 122.

If you notice suspicious or unpermitted soliciting activity, please report it to the Windsor Heights Police Department at 515-222-3321.

Andy's Corner!

- 73rd St, 68th St. and an asphalt overlay on Forest Ct. from 64th St to 66th St. A fourth and upcoming project along University Ave of pavement sealing and traffic markings will happen later this summer.
- Public Works has completed several mill and overlay road patching projects on Marilyn Drive.
- The Public Works Department is working hard to roll out a Road Projects map for your usage that highlights the areas actively under construction and the associated impacts to travel. Stay tuned!
- The Sidewalk Improvement Grant Program and the Stormwater Best Management Practices Program are still accepting applications. Please visit the Public Works Department page on the City's Website for more information regarding both projects!
- There is a lot happening down at Colby Park this summer. Come down to the park to enjoy all the free to attend events. Check out the Events page for a calendar and listing of all events.
- Winter will be here before we know it! (Sorry, I know it's July) Now is a good time to start to assess mailboxes and other fixed items located curbside to make sure they are in good condition and to avoid any damage this winter from the snow plows. Give yourself enough time before the ground freezes to make any repairs necessary!
- Here are some other projects our crew has been hard at work completing, including road maintenance, storm sewer cleaning, parks and grounds maintenance, and tree assessments.

Yard Upgrade? Get City Help

The City of Windsor Heights may help 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 (BMPs). Stormwater is water from rain, snowmelt, and surface drainage that runs off impervious surfaces such as paved surfaces, roofs, and compacted lawns. [Learn more here!](#)

Tune In to Windsor Heights: Your Community, Your Stories

Welcome to your go-to podcast for everything happening in the heart of Windsor Heights! Each episode brings you closer to the people, projects, and events that make our community a great place to live, work, and connect.

The latest episode is with the Windsor Heights Fire Department Chief, James Mease about not only the role the fire department plays in the day to day life of folks living in Windsor Heights and how this local fire department works with other metro communities to keep people safe. We also talked about tradition, medical care, the purchase of a new ambulance and the day we pushed a brand new fire engine into it's place in the Public Safety Building.

[Listen here!](#)

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

Splash Pad Back to Regular Hours 10 AM TO 8 PM

Central Iowa Water Works has allowed the splash pad to return to regular hours.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during reduced hours due to elevated nitrate levels.

Get Help Covering Sidewalk Repair Costs

Sidewalks are an important part of making a community walkable and connecting neighbors. In order to make maintaining sidewalks more affordable, the City rolled out the Sidewalk Improvement Grant for up to 50% of the cost for necessary improvements.

[Click her to learn more and apply!](#)

Properties without existing sidewalks are not required to install sidewalks as part of City Ordinance.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Gardening Workshop Thursday, July 24, 5:30 PM | Franklin Avenue Library

Join us for an interactive gardening workshop designed to deepen your knowledge and spark your curiosity. This engaging session will feature presentations from local experts, offering practical tips and insights to help your garden thrive. You'll also have the chance to ask questions and get personalized advice based on your own gardening experiences.

Holly Hallman, volunteer and community garden coordinator for the City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department, will lead the event. With a passion for plants and organic farming, Holly brings a wealth of experience and a contagious enthusiasm that makes gardening both fun and accessible.

Check out the Popular Page

Bestsellers, buzz, and books everyone's talking about - find them all on the Des Moines Public Library's Popular page. This is your one-stop source for the most requested titles, curated readalikes, and up-to-date bestseller lists. Whether you're a casual reader or someone that tracks your reading on spreadsheets, our expert staff makes it easy to discover your next great read. From can't-miss thrillers to powerful memoirs, these are the books people can't put down. Head to dmpl.org/popular and see what's making waves. Your next favorite book might just be waiting for you.

6/16/25 City Council Meeting Recap

- Public hearings for the University Avenue Maintenance and the Wilshire Boulevard Storm Sewer Projects were held. Council approved the plans for both projects. Staff will provide updates on the City's website after pre-project meetings take place with the contractors.
- Council discussed the design of the Phase 2 73rd Street Project, which would be from University to Center Street. Staff will bring a design contract for approval at the next meeting. The contract is with the City's engineer firm Bolton and Menk.
- Council approved the release of a tree removal RFP. This RFP will include trees on both public and private property. The City has been in contact with residents whose trees are a part of this. The trees have been identified as dead and/or a public safety risk.
- Discussion took place on Super Quick Mart's tobacco license as they have received a second violation for selling to underage customers. Council supported additional checks to all establishments within Windsor Heights. Council also approved allowing the state to handle the violation process. Council also discussed improvements to the tobacco ordinance including advertisements and additional consequences to violations. Staff will look further into the improvements.

6/2/25 City Council Meeting Recap

- Council approved an agreement with Safe Haven Baby Boxes. The organization installs specialized baby boxes at designated secure locations where parents can safely surrender their newborns, ensuring their well-being and reducing the risk of harm or abandonment. The box will be installed along the south wall of the Public Safety Building in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus.
- Discussion took place on the 74th Street Storm Sewer Project. The project is focusing on cleaning out debris to assess the condition of the pipe and determine whether it can be lined or replaced. After this project is completed, staff will proceed with a future reconstruction project. This project has now been completed.
- Council approved traffic signal repairs at 3E and 73rd Street. The project will focus on replacing outdated detection systems with camera-based technology and adding a battery backup system. The equipment being used was strategically planned to be compatible with improvements being made during the future 73rd Street Phase 2 reconstruction project.
- Council discussed setting new park hours. Staff proposed adjusting park hours to sunrise to sunset, with exceptions for rentals, special authorizations, and city functions. Discussion focused on changes being prompted by vandalism and park safety. Council provided direction to set the hours as sunrise to sunset. Staff will post signs in the park.