



COMMUNITY NEWS November 2025

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Latest Construction Updates
- A Look at Winter Operations
- Order Your Luminary
- Yard Waste Season is Coming to an End
- Important Snow Reminders

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

Windsor Wonderland Returns to Colby Park!

Saturday, December 6
Festivities begin at 3 PM

Get ready for a magical afternoon of holiday cheer right here in Windsor Heights! Join friends and neighbors for **Windsor Wonderland** at Colby Park — a celebration full of sparkle, laughter, and holiday fun for the whole family.

This year's event is bigger and brighter than ever, featuring holiday wagon rides around the park, train rides, and a festive petting zoo! Kids can enjoy free crafts and activities, sip on hot cocoa, and of course, snap photos with Santa himself.

Arrive early to drop off your gingerbread house by 3 PM and then lace up for the Ugly Sweater Fun Run at 3:15 PM — prizes will be awarded for the most festive sweaters and the most creative gingerbread houses!

Families, neighbors, and community groups are invited to Host a Tree by decorating one of thirteen outdoor trees to help light up the park (registration required). Join us for the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:30 pm - where we will announce the winners of the Gingerbread House and Holiday Lights contests. A perfect way to cap off a heartwarming day of community celebration while listening to the Roosevelt Choir!

Whether you come for the treats, the lights, or the laughter, **Windsor Wonderland** is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season and celebrate what makes Windsor Heights such a special place to call home. **All activities are free and open to the public!**

Visit www.windsorwonderland.com for full event details, volunteer opportunities, and to register to host a tree, join the fun run, or claim your free gingerbread house kit (kits are limited to Windsor Heights residents — but everyone is welcome to participate). Come share the joy, spread the cheer, and make this holiday season truly unforgettable in Windsor Heights!

December 5

Citywide Holiday Lights Contest

December 6

3 - 6 PM

Pictures with Santa
Holiday Wagon Rides

Train Rides

Petting Zoo

Ugly Sweater Run

Holiday Treats & Activities

Food Trucks

Movie: The Muppet Christmas Carol at 6 PM



CURBSIDE COLLECTION ends week of December 1



Curbside yard waste collection for Compost It! communities wraps up the week of December 1, 2025, on your regular pickup day. Accepted materials include leaves, twigs, grass clippings, and garden vegetation—just no dirt, rocks, mulch, or food and pet waste. Set out waste in Compost It! bags or store-brand bags with a green Compost It! sticker, or use your 96-gallon Compost It! cart by 6 AM on collection day. Logs, stumps, and other large debris aren't accepted curbside but can be taken to Metro Park East Landfill year-round. Winter collection will be December 29 and January 5, for leftover leaves and live Christmas trees. Trees must be decoration-free and have a Compost It! sticker.

Snow's Coming — Here's What You Need to Know Before It Falls

We may not want to admit it yet, but winter is right around the corner. November heralds the start of the holiday season, a time for joy and hope... and snow. Sometimes lots of snow! What does snow mean for Windsor Heights residents?

- All snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks forty-eight (48) hours after the snow and ice have ceased being deposited thereon from one continuous event. (50.02-26)
- Accumulations of ice or snow located above ground level that constitute a danger of falling on persons in the vicinity thereof must be removed. (50.02-33)
- It is unlawful to park any vehicle, except to avoid an accident or in obedience to the signal of a police officer or a traffic control device, upon any of the streets of the City during the time of any snowfall and within 24 hours following the end of any snowfall. (60.10.10)

Construction Updates

73rd Street Reconstruction (South of Clive Learning Academy)

Work is progressing toward substantial completion by or before early December. Sod installation in areas where work has occurred in 2025 is expected to be completed by the beginning of December. Thereafter, 73rd St. will reopen until the final stage of reconstruction of 73rd St. (north of City Wide to Sunset Terrace) gets underway in April of 2026.

68th Street Reconstruction (South of University Avenue)

Substantial completion is anticipated by mid-December, with sod installation expected to be completed in most project areas by early December.

Both of the above projects' schedules remain dependent on favorable weather conditions. Rain combined with cooler temperatures leads to longer soil drying periods and potential delays.

Wilshire Boulevard Storm Sewer Project

Storm sewer replacement work on Wilshire Boulevard is anticipated to be substantially completed by mid-November.

Hickman Rd. & 70th Water Feeder Main Project

Des Moines Water Works plans to begin substantial work on a regional water main on 70th, between Hickman Rd. and Wilshire, at the start of 2026 and expects to be completed with this portion of the larger water main project extending along Hickman Rd. by early April 2026.

74th St. Reconstruction Open House: The City of Windsor Heights is preparing for the reconstruction of 74th Street from College Drive to Wilshire Blvd in the spring of 2026. As part of the design process, the City will be hosting a resident meeting from 4:30-6:00 P.M. on November 12th at the Community Events Center located at the 6900 School Street. The design team will be available with the proposed layout for public viewing and to answer any questions.

Andy's Corner!

Keeping Our Streets Safe This Winter: A Look Inside Public Works' Winter Operations

As the temperatures drop and snowflakes start to fall, the City of Windsor Heights Public Works Department is once again prepared to take on the challenges of winter. Each year, the department's mission is simple yet essential - to keep our streets, trails, and public spaces safe and accessible for everyone.

Prepared for Iowa Winters

With an average of over 36 inches of snowfall annually and roughly 15 snow or ice events expected each season, preparation is key. The Public Works team plans for the worst and hopes for the best by maintaining a proactive approach to ensure quick and effective snow and ice control whenever winter weather hits.

Ready to Roll at a Moment's Notice

Before the first snow arrives, every piece of equipment, from dump trucks and plows to loaders and utility vehicles, is inspected, serviced, and fitted with snow-removal attachments. The city's team of trained operators is always on call throughout the winter months, ready to mobilize day or night when conditions demand.

A Smart, Cost-Effective Approach

Windsor Heights uses a combination of two methods when it comes to applied roadway treatments: anti-icing and de-icing. Anti-icing is a treatment prior to a winter weather event. De-icing occurs while the winter weather event is ongoing. The goal of any roadway treatment is meant to inhibit or break the bond of snow and ice from the pavement surface so that plows can more effectively clear the roads for safe passage.

Clearing with Purpose

When snow begins to accumulate, Public Works follows a clear order of priorities:

1. Main snow routes and collector streets
2. Public Safety Building
3. Residential neighborhoods
4. City facilities, parks, sidewalks, and trails

Our crew makes every effort to clear roads quickly and safely. We plow from curb line to curb line, starting at the center line of the road and working outward. As a reminder, snow pushed into driveways during plowing is the responsibility of the property owner to remove, a reality of efficient citywide snow clearing.

Community Partnership

Residents play a crucial role in keeping sidewalks safe. City ordinance requires property owners to clear sidewalks within 48 hours after a snowfall ends. Prompt action helps keep walkways safe for pedestrians.

Staying Connected

Public Works maintains close communication with the Police Department during storms to monitor conditions and coordinate responses. Citizens with concerns or questions about snow removal are encouraged to contact City Hall or the Public Works Director rather than approaching equipment operators directly.

This winter, remember that when you see the plows out, give them room to work. Together, we can ensure Windsor Heights remains safe, connected, and ready for whatever the season brings.

Safe Travels,



Andy Larson, Public Works Director

Share your comments and suggestions or ask a question! Email City Clerk Adam Strait at astrait@windsorheights.org or call 515-279-3662



WINDSOR HEIGHTS
FOUNDATION

LET'S LIGHT UP WINDSOR HEIGHTS!

Luminary Kits • \$25

Reserve by Dec 26

Pick-Up Dec 29 | 4-6 PM

Jake's Fireworks

Celebrate community and welcome the new year by supporting the Windsor Heights Foundation.

Donate \$25 to receive a luminary kit with 10 candlelit luminaries (bags, candles, and sand included).

Reserve by December 26 and pick up your kit on December 29, from 4 to 6 PM at Jake's Fireworks, 7300 Hickman Road.

Order at windsorheightsfoundation.org or scan the QR code. Questions? Email windsorheightsfoundation@gmail.com or call Mark Arends at 515-779-6003.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Novel November Flash Fiction Workshop - Wednesday, November 19, 6 PM | Central Library

Craft a complete story from a prompt in a single session and share it with others. This fast, fun session is a great way to recharge your creativity for the final stretch of Novel November.

Mindfulness Day at the Library - Saturday, November 22, 10:30 AM-4:30 PM | Franklin Avenue Library

Take a peaceful pause before the holiday rush at Mindfulness Day 2025. Enjoy a day of contemplative practices designed to help you relax, refocus, and recharge. The agenda is as follows:

10:30 to 12:15 - Steve Bryce - Mindful cooking

12:30 to 2:00 - Paul Witmer - Mandalas

2:15 to 3:15 - Anna Mullen - Yoga (beginners welcome)

3:30 to 4:30 - Safiyah Grace - Sound healing

No registration is required. You can attend any of the sessions throughout the day.

Grown-Up Book Fair - Saturday, December 6, 12-4 PM | Central Library

Shop for books, gifts, stickers, and more from local independent bookstores and shops at the Central Library on Saturday, December 6, from 12-4 PM. Vendors will be spread throughout the library for easy browsing. Bonus: 10% of all purchases benefit the Des Moines Public Library. Free parking is available in the library garage and in the surface lot at 10th Street and Grand Avenue.

10/7/25 City Council Meeting Recap

- Council heard presentations from Dr. Nalo Johnson on the Central Iowa Emergency Rental Assistance Study and Iowa Homeless Youth Centers on their Youth Opportunity Center. Both organizations requested financial support from the City. Staff will further review the requests to be formally presented to Council at a future meeting.
- Bridges of Iowa shared a progress update on their Colby Park art project, bridge over the bio swell in the Colby Park parking lot. The bridge had been installed and Amy Putney Koenig, the artist, hopes to have the project completed within the month. The project titled 'Cross the Bridge to a Better Life' is a mixed media art installation honoring the work of Bridges of Iowa.

10/20/25 City Council Meeting Recap

- Staff presented an update on the City's application for a RAISE grant, a federally-funded infrastructure grant program. The grant would help pay for reconstruction of 73rd Street south of University to the I-235 connector. The City has applied in the past two grant cycles with increasing scores. The City is working with Bolton & Menk as well as the Des Moines MPO to further increase scoring in the upcoming cycle. The project is not anticipated to begin until 2030.
- Council considered two fee waivers from organizations to use the Colby Park community center at no cost. Both waivers were granted, but additional conversation over the fee waiver policy guidelines were had. Staff will be preparing recommendations for policy updates to be presented at a future council meeting.