



COMMUNITY NEWS DECEMBER 2025

Important Numbers

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

What's Inside

- Road Construction Update
- Recycle Old Holiday Lights at City Hall
- Public Works Update
- Tips to Stay Safe on the Roads During Winter
- Light up Windsor Heights with a Luminary

Contact Council

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

Happy Holidays

From Your City Council

Warm wishes to you this holiday season and I hope this new year brings you peace, happiness and laughter. It has been my honor to serve this community and I want to thank all of you for making our community so special. I look forward to a wonderful

2026. - Mayor Mike Jones

Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, love, and laughter. May the New Year bring you happiness, health, and countless moments that matter most. I look forward to making 2026 in Windsor Heights our best year yet.

- Councilor Susan Skeries

Wishing you and your family a joyful, safe, and sparkling holiday season! This time of year reminds us how lucky we are to call Windsor Heights home. May your days be filled with warmth, laughter, and community cheer. Happy Holidays and a bright New Year! - Councilor Threase Harms

It matters not if you celebrate Chanukah, Kwanzaa or Christmas. What does matter is that you treat others with kindness and understanding not only at this time of the year but all year long. Happy Holidays! - Councilor Michael Libbie

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season. May the coming weeks bring rest, connection, and celebration for you and your loved ones. Here's to a bright and successful new year for Windsor Heights! - 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



Andy's Corner!

When snow and ice arrive, our crew responds as the conditions develop. Winter work happens early, late and often overnight. Every storm is unique, and the conditions dictate how we respond operationally. This year, we also are working around various active construction sites. When winter weather moves in, please know that our operations run 24/7 until we clear every single road from curb to curb. In last month's newsletter, I included a more detailed breakdown of our operations but below are some reminders of how Public Works handles winter weather.

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

- Main snow routes and collector streets
- Public Safety Building
- Residential neighborhoods
- City facilities, parks, sidewalks, and trails
- Every effort is made 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

Per City Code, the Snow Ordinance will go into effect during the time of any snowfall and within 24 hours following the end of any snowfall. During this time, on street parking is prohibited. This allows our trucks and equipment to most efficiently and effectively clear the roadways without any obstacles. We operate large equipment in sometimes very space limited areas. Your cooperation with this helps us to be able to complete a better job and leave you with a safe road to travel upon.

Here are some other projects we've been hard at work completing:

- Storm Sewer Inspections
- Winterization of off season equipment
- Continued maintenance and service to snow removal equipment

Construction Updates

Progress on the 73rd Street reconstruction project is expected to continue despite weather-related challenges and is anticipated to reopen to traffic before the end of the year. Intermittent work by Des Moines Water Works at the 70th Street and Wilshire Blvd intersection on a regional feeder main is expected to continue through the winter.

Want to help keep Windsor Heights cleaner and safer?

Deicing salt helps melt ice on sidewalks, parking lots, and roads—but it comes with hidden costs. When snow and ice melt, salt washes into storm drains and flows into Walnut Creek, the Des Moines River, and ultimately the Raccoon River, our source of drinking water. The chloride in salt is a permanent pollutant, and levels rise each year as more salt is applied.

Salt doesn't just threaten drinking water. It can harm fish, plants, and other aquatic life, damage soil and trees, and degrade freshwater ecosystems.

Be cautious when buying deicers: there are no labeling standards, no truly "environmentally safe" options, and no regulated "pet-friendly" claims. All deicers have side effects—chloride-based products are simply the most common.

The best way to protect your pets and local water quality is to use less. Every teaspoon of salt you skip prevents 5 gallons of water from being permanently polluted. Next month's article will share tips for reducing deicer use (hint: shoveling early makes a big difference!).



HOLIDAY LIGHTS

REC YCL ING

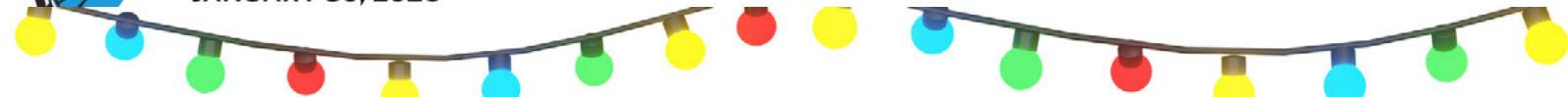
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 -
JANUARY 30, 2026



This holiday season, we've partnered with Metro Waste Authority to offer a holiday lights drop-off for any old or broken strands of lights you find as you deck the halls.

Through January 30, residents can drop off lights in the collection box located inside of City Hall. All lights will then be safely recycled at Metro Waste Authority's Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off.

LED, classic, plastic, and glass bulbs as well as net, icicle, and battery-powered lights are accepted. Just remember to keep them loose when you drop them in the collection box!



Stay Safe on the Roads: Winter Driving Tips

As winter weather settles in, even a small amount of snow can make driving more challenging. Slippery streets, reduced visibility, and longer stopping distances all contribute to an increased risk of accidents. Here are some simple ways to stay safe and prepared when traveling through Windsor Heights this winter.

Before You Drive

- Clear your vehicle completely. Remove snow and ice from windows, mirrors, headlights, and roof to ensure full visibility and prevent blowing snow from obstructing other drivers.
- Check your tires. Cold temperatures reduce tire pressure, affecting traction. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and have adequate tread.
- Warm up your car safely. If you warm up your vehicle, do so outdoors to avoid carbon monoxide buildup.

On the Road

- Slow down. Even light snow or a thin layer of ice can significantly reduce traction. Drive below the speed limit when conditions warrant.
- Increase following distance. Give yourself extra space—at least 6–8 seconds—to stop safely.
- Brake and turn gently. Sudden movements can cause your vehicle to skid. Accelerate, brake, and steer smoothly.
- Use your headlights. Turn them on during snow or overcast conditions to help others see you.
- Beware of black ice. Shaded areas, bridges, and intersections often freeze first and stay icy longer.

Be Prepared

- Keep an emergency kit. Include a blanket, ice scraper, flashlight, snacks, water, and a small shovel.
- Charge your phone. Ensure you can call for help if needed.
- Plan extra time. Rushing increases risk, especially when roads are slick.

Sharing the Road

- Give snowplows room. Stay back and avoid passing plows. They travel slowly, may make wide turns, and can create clouds of snow that reduce visibility.
- Watch for pedestrians. Snowbanks and slippery sidewalks may force people to walk closer to the roadway.

Winter driving requires patience, preparation, and caution—but with a few extra steps, we can all help keep Windsor Heights safe during snowy weather. Drive carefully and stay warm!

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.

Questions? Email windsorheightsfoundation@gmail.com or call Mark Arends at 515-779-6003.

11/3/25 City Council Meeting Recap

- Held the public hearing for the Walnut Creek Water Access project contract and awarded the contract to RW Excavating Solution. The water access will be located at Colby Park behind the Pavilion. It's part of a wider Central Iowa water trail initiative called the ICON Water Trails. Windsor Heights is joining other communities such as Clive, Bondurant, and West Des Moines in creating an access point to Iowa's rivers. The access points will provide a new way for Windsor Heights and our visitors to connect with Walnut Creek.
- Council approved an updated Community Center rental property. The primary purpose of the update was to heighten the standards for rental fee waivers.

11/17/25 City Council Meeting Recap

- Council reviewed Resolution No. 2025-82, which proposes the creation of an Equipment Operator position within the Public Works Department. Staff presented the justification for the new role, citing the City's continued expansion of proactive infrastructure maintenance including crack sealing and full-depth roadway repairs, stormwater system improvements, and a greater focus on in-house maintenance of vegetation and recently added amenities. Council members raised additional questions for staff to address before considering the establishment of the position. As a result, Council voted to refer the resolution to the Public Works Committee for further review prior to bringing it back for final consideration.
- Council had initial discussions on adding a contractor incentive to the future 74th Street Reconstruction project. The incentive would be in place for the early completion of the project. Council quested additional information. Staff will prepare a formal proposal for the incentive to be included in the upcoming bid package to contractors and present it at the following meeting.
- Council approved the 2026 City Council meeting and special events dates. The City's calendar and special event's page have been updated with these dates for everyone to mark their calendars.

Give Your Old Batteries the Gift of Proper Disposal

This Holiday Season

From powering twinkling lights and new gadgets to keeping holiday remotes and toys running, batteries work overtime this time of year. But once they lose their charge, tossing them in the trash or recycling can cause fires and chemical leaks, putting workers and facilities at risk.

That's why we've partnered with Metro Waste Authority to install a convenient battery drop-off container at City Hall, just in time for the busy holiday season.

Residents can now safely and at no cost dispose of household batteries and small rechargeable electronics. Simply bag each battery using the materials provided and place it in the labeled slot. It's an easy way to keep your celebrations safe and sustainable.

Learn more at www.mwatoday.com or call 515-244-0021. Let's wrap up the year by keeping Windsor Heights safer and greener!