

# UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

[www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)

Volume 10 Issue 2

May 2010

## Inside this issue:

Birdland Levee	2
Home & Garden Tour	2
Sewer Separation Project	2
2010 SCRUB Dates	3
Rendezvous on Riverview	4
Grand View Newspaper	4
Jazz in July	5
Prevent Home Repair Scams and Disputes	5
2010 Alice Rodine Recognition Awards	6
Garage Sale 2010	6
Need LOWA Coordinator	6
Half Century Application	7

## Spring General Meeting

**Tuesday, May 18th, 2010 at 7:00 PM**  
**Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur Ave**

The Union Park Baptist Church has a large parking lot and easy access. Please use the handicap ramp that leads to the South Entrance into the sanctuary. For maps and directions go to <http://www.upbcdesmoines.com/>.

Our agenda includes guest speakers include Mayor Frank Cownie, Skip Moore, Council Member-at-Large and Bob Mahaffey, Council Member Ward II. Angela Connolly, our Polk County Board of Supervisor will be here to give a general county update as well as talk about the Community Betterment Grants.

Hope to see you there!

## Building for the Future at Grand View University

If you have noticed some vacant homes near the Grand View University east campus starting to disappear, way is being made for a \$15 million student housing project to address a recent housing shortage on campus. The former homes that are being demolished were owned by the school and have been a part of a long-term site plan.

Ground breaking for the first in a series of improvements at Grand View University is slated for this summer. The proposed four story, 232-bed, two- and four-bedroom student apartments will be located on the east side of East 14th Street, just south of Hull Avenue. Each apartment will have individual bedrooms with a shared kitchen and living room space. The apartments will be reserved for junior and senior students. Construction of the building is expected to be completed by fall 2011.

Larger than anticipated enrollment during the 2009-10 school year forced Grand View to place 27 students off campus at the Value Place, an extended stay hotel in Ankeny. Once the new apartments open, campus residences will have capacity for close to 800 students, about 250 more than this year.

The apartments are part of a larger improvement plan for campus. Also planned, is a 43,000 square-foot, two-story expansion to the Grand View Student Center at 2729 E. 14th St that will mirror the campus' Rasmussen Center building on the west side of East 14th Street. An enclosed pedestrian overpass to the Rasmussen Center is also planned. This part of the building project will not immediately be implemented.

[www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com) - Visit our website for news, information, agendas, past newsletters, calendars and t-shirts.

## UPNA Officers/Contacts

### Co-Chairs

Jack Daugherty 558-3501  
[info@unionparkdsm.com](mailto:info@unionparkdsm.com)

Marsha Steele 265-8624  
[info@unionparkdsm.com](mailto:info@unionparkdsm.com)

### Correspondence Secretary

Beth Govoni  
[info@unionparkdsm.com](mailto:info@unionparkdsm.com)

### Recording Secretary / Newsletter

Paul Sadler 265-5372  
[Unionparkiowa@hotmail.com](mailto:Unionparkiowa@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer / Membership

Paul Cole 263-1885  
[ColePW@crosspaths.net](mailto:ColePW@crosspaths.net)

## Birdland Levee

Birdland Levee System Improvements project will be underway soon. Riverview Island will be the staging area and starting point for construction. The project includes degradation and reconstruction of a levee and floodwall system approximately 1.7 miles long with an approximate location of left de-

scending bank of the Des Moines River from McHenry and Riverview Parks (Oak Park Avenue & 9th Street) downstream to Birdland Park (vicinity of Guthrie Avenue and Saylor Road). This project is administered by the Corps of Engineers.

Construction will be done by 2012.

They have 480 days from start to finish to complete the project. The Corps of Engineers will return Riverview Island better than it was before, at their cost. Improvements to the Island will include grading, a bicycle path and plantings. It will tie McHenry Park in with Riverview.

## Home and Garden Tour

It is with regret that the UPNA Neighborhood Home and Garden Tour has been cancelled for this year. In spite of the best efforts of the Home Tour Committee, not enough homes or gardens are available this year. We have several homes committed for next year, so expect the Tour to return in June 2011. The Home and Garden Tour showcases the wide variety of homes and gardens in the Union Park area and demonstrates the advantages of living in an established neighbor-

hood. Proceeds from the Tour benefits the Union Park Neighborhood Association's various projects. Homes and gardens are always needed for future tours. Consider having an open house event in conjunction with our Tour to celebrate a special event like the anniversary of your house being built, or to show off a new remodeling project. The homes on the tours do not need to be "perfect". In the past, we have heard that the most popular homes on home tours are the ones that are

"works in progress". If you have worked hard to design and grow a beautiful yard and garden, and would like others to see your efforts, this would be an opportunity to have other gardeners admire your gardening skills. Please contact a member of the Steering Committee if you would like more information about being on a future tour.

## Sewer Separation Project Planned

The City of Des Moines is currently designing a sanitary/storm sewer separation project that involves areas in the Capitol Park and Highland Park and Union Park neighborhoods, called the Lower Union Park Sewer Separation project.

This project provides for construction of a storm sewer in the Eastside Trunk Combined Sewer System to remove the remaining storm inlets from the combined sewer system in an area bounded by East Ovid on the north, University Avenue on the south, East 14th Street on the east, and Penn-

sylvania Avenue/Cornell Street on the west. A new sanitary sewer will also be constructed in East 12th Street to accommodate the sanitary sewer service connection currently connected to the combined sewer. This will separate the sewer system in this area. This area lies upstream of the existing combined sewer overflow at the Birdland Marina. This work is included in the Long Term Control Plan that has been developed to eliminate combined sewer overflows (CSO) as submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. A \$5,000,000 CDBG Jumpstart Grant has been

awarded for this project that will cover construction expenses, the City will be responsible to cover the costs for design and construction administration.

Soon bids for this work will be taken for this construction work but a start date has not been announced. As we learn more, will keep you posted on this project. Meanwhile if you have specific questions, contact Ron A. De Groot, P.E., Des Moines Public Works at (515) 323-8165.

# City of Des Moines 2010 SCRUB

The Public Works Department, in cooperation with the Des Moines Neighbors and the Neighborhood Revitalization Board, has worked to schedule a number of SCRUB'S (Spring Cleanup to Remove Urban Blight) . This year, the Public Works Department will continue the use of the Metro Waste Authority (MWA) Transfer Station at 4198 Delaware Avenue and Metro Waste Authority (MWA) Compost Park at 1601 Harriett Street on seven Saturdays. Also see the following guidelines and complete SCRUB calendar or call the Public Works Department 24-hour Customer Service Center at 283-4950 or for more information go to [www.dmgov.org](http://www.dmgov.org).

**Scrub Guidelines: Residents of Des Moines ONLY:** Proof of Residency required; Photo ID or current utility bill.

**Hours:** Neighborhood SCRUB: 7 AM to Noon

**MWA's Metro Transfer Station and the Metro Compost Center : 7 AM to 1 PM**

**Note:** Metro Waste Authority's Metro Transfer Station and the Metro Compost Center are NOT open to the public, Except on Saturday SCRUB day events.

**SCRUB Items Allowed:** Trash containers, general trash including furniture, lawn mowers without fluids, TV's, computers, tires (any size, on or off rim),  
**Appliances: NO CHARGE THIS YEAR,** air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, dehumidifiers, furnaces, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, etc.

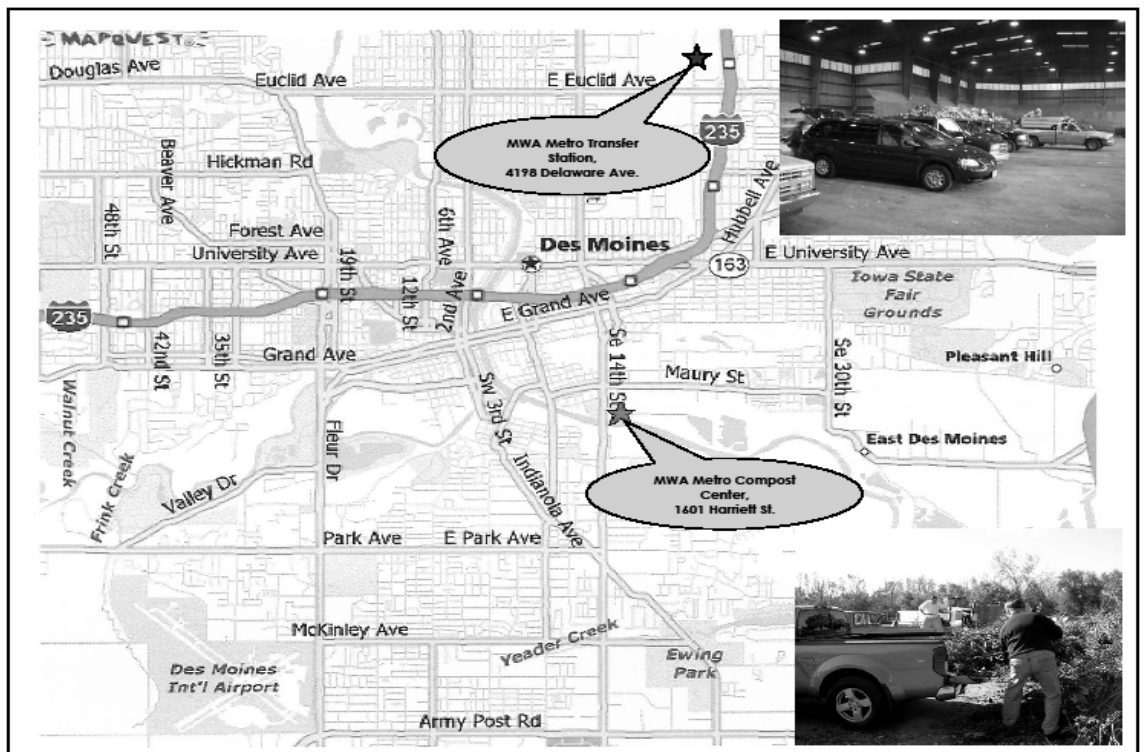
**SCRUB Items Not Allowed:** Car batteries, propane tanks, oil, paint or other toxic or hazardous chemicals. Call Metro Waste Authority's Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste at 967-5512 to dispose of these items.

All yard waste will need to be hauled to the MWA Metro Compost Center at 1601 Harriett ST. No yard waste accepted at neighborhood SCRUB sites.

**Yard waste:** Brush, tree limbs 24" diameter or less, maximum length 10 feet, prunings, loose leaves, loose grass clippings.

## Saturday Dates Both Sites are Open

- May 15
- June 19
- July 17
- August 21
- September 18
- November 20



# UPNA

## Meeting Invitation

The Union Park Neighborhood Association holds a Spring and Fall General Meeting. We also have monthly steering committee meetings that are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Meetings start at 7:00 pm at Grand View College in the Humphrey Center (“Old Main”) on the 2nd floor. These are all open meetings and any neighborhood resident is welcome to attend. The more of us that can get involved the better, so consider this your invitation to attend any meeting. If you can’t make it to every meeting that’s ok but we would love to have you come whenever you can. Everyone’s input is welcome, whether you would like to help with a special event or project or just come to meet your neighbors. UPNA is accomplishing more each year so the more people that are involved the more good we can do!

# Rendezvous on Riverview (ROR) Concerts 2010

Building on the success of last year’s free concerts on Kiwanis Riverview Nature Island (old Riverview Amusement Park), the Rendezvous on Riverview (ROR) will continue. The concerts will again be free and open to the public, only this year the concerts will be held on the old Clarkson School lot at 6th Ave and Boston. Please use the gravel parking lot on the north side of 7th and Corning Ave for parking. The Island itself will not be available this year because it will be used as a staging area for rebuilding the levee system.

ROR festivities are every Friday night during June and July and run from 4:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Rendezvous on Riverview is an outdoor family friendly event. You are encouraged to bring chairs and/or blankets. No food/coolers or outside beverages are permitted to be brought in. Please bring ID’s as adult beverage sales will be strictly monitored and enforced. You must be 21 to purchase and consume alcohol. Pets are welcome but must be on a leash at all times.

ROR Concert Schedule – Admission is Free:  
 Friday Jun 4<sup>th</sup> .....Richie Lee & The Fabulous 50's  
 Friday June 11th .....35 South  
 Friday June 18th.....Gimmik  
 Friday June 25th .....Matt Woods & the Thunderbolts  
 Friday July 2nd .....Spam...and...A FIREWORKS DISPLAY!

Friday July 9th .....The Melody Proffitt Band  
 Friday July 16th .....Flipside  
 Friday July 23rd .....Hold On  
 Friday July 30th .....Brother Trucker



# Grand View Student Newspaper Named Best Iowa Student Newspaper of 2009

*The Grand Views*, the weekly student newspaper at Grand View University, has been named the Iowa College Media Association’s Best Iowa Student Newspaper of 2009. This was the first year the organization named the state’s top newspaper for small colleges in Iowa. The Grand Views won the award based on its showing in the annual newspaper competition, which evaluates writing, photography and design. The other student newspapers in the top five were from Loras, Mount Mercy, Simpson and Wartburg. Senior Derek Hart is the 2009-2010 editor-in-chief of *The Grand Views*.

Grand Views staffers won 16 awards, including four firsts.

- News editor Stacey Campbell won first in the Best Sports Feature category for a profile of Grand View superfan Julius “Jules” Polich.
- Molly Hottle, who graduated this fall, was awarded first place in Best Feature Photo for a picture she took while touring Denmark with the Grand View Choir. Hottle also won a multimedia award for her blog she filed from Denmark.
- Photo editor Taylor Hinkle won two firsts, in Best Sports Photo and Best Photo Portfolio. He took his winning sports shot at the Iowa high school baseball tournament this summer at Principal Park. It ran in *The Grand Views* as a Photo of the Week.

## Jazz in July in Union Park

Union Park Neighborhood Association is pleased to be hosting another Jazz in July event in Union Park this summer. Come hear the music on Sunday afternoon, July 11<sup>th</sup>, from 2 – 4pm near the East Shelter. World Port will be providing the jazz. The group often plays at the Downtown Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings so you may be fa-

miliar with their electric horn and overall great sound. We'll be providing free treats during the concert so bring your lawn chairs or blankets, the kids and dogs for a lovely afternoon under the shade trees in our park.

In the event of rain the concert will be at 4pm inside the Birdland Shelter just west of Saylor Road.

metro  
arts  
jazz in july



## Prevent Home Repair Scams and Disputes

Spring is here -- prime time for home improvement fraud and scams. We see it every year. Home repair needs pile up over the winter, and everyone is eager to make improvements. It's prime time to beware of scams and questionable contractors.

Home improvement fraud includes contractors who ask for substantial up-front payments, do little or no work, and never finish the job right. Other contractors offer a low price and then charge a lot more as the job progresses. Others are "fly-by-night" traveling con-artists working their roofing or paving or chimney-repair scams.

Follow these tips to avoid being taken by home repair scams and disputes:

1. Don't fall for the "knock-at-your-door" scam, where someone shows up "out of the blue" and says your driveway needs repaving, or your house needs new shingles – and they "just happen to have materials left over" at a big discount! They are sure to take your money and run, without doing the job at all or doing it right.

2. Check out contractors before you sign a contract or pay any money. Request local *references* -- and check them out. Contact the Attorney General's Office to see if it has *complaints* (call 515-281-5926, or 888-777-4590.) Contact the Better Business Bureau (515-243-8137, or [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).) Check to see if a contractor has been sued by unsatisfied customers (or sued them) -- go to [www.iowacourts.state.ia.us](http://www.iowacourts.state.ia.us).

3. Get several written estimates, choose the best, and get a contract in writing. Before any work begins, agree on a *written contract* detailing work to be done, the price, who's responsible for permits, and any other terms. Ask for a copy of the contractor's liability insurance certificate. Put start and completion dates in writing, and consequences if the contractor fails to meet them. (Example: the contract could be nullified if the contractor doesn't start on time.) Note, if you sign a contract at a place other than the contractor's regular place of business – such as at your home – you usually have three business days to cancel the contract.

4. Avoid paying large sums in advance. If you need to make a partial advance payment for materials, make your check out to the supplier *and* the contractor. Insist on a "mechanic's lien waiver" in case the contractor fails to pay others for materials or labor.

5. Financing. It is usually a better deal and safer to obtain financing through your local bank or credit union, rather than a contractor. If you do arrange financing through the contractor and the papers are signed away from the contractor's place of business, you usually have three days to cancel the financing. The right to cancel the financing is separate from the right to cancel the home improvement contract.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. The web site is [www.IowaAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IowaAttorneyGeneral.gov). Call 515-281-5926, or toll-free at 888-777-4590.

## 2010 Alice Rodine Recognition Awards

Each year neighborhoods nominate a business, volunteer or city employee that demonstrates outstanding leadership in the community for the Alice Rodine Award. The award program is sponsored by the Des Moines Neighbors, a coalition of neighborhood associations, in memory of Alice Rodine, a long time Union Park area resident and neighborhood activist. This year, UPNA made nominations in all three categories. Goode Greenhouse was nominated for the Business category. Vince Travis, our Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Inspector was nominated as City Employee and Paul Sadler, UPNA Recording Secretary was nominated as the Citizen Volunteer.

Goode Greenhouses at 1050 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Des Moines has been a long-time partner of the UPNA's popular

Lawn of the Week Awards program. For many years, Goode have donated gift cards, which are presented to the Lawn of the Week Awardees at the UPNA Fall General meeting. UPNA is grateful to have such a committed business partner. Their support helps encourage residents to take pride in our Union Park neighborhood.

Vince Travis, Neighborhood Inspection Division for the City of Des Moines, has been the designated Union Park Neighborhood inspector since the Neighborhood Based Service Delivery (NBSD) program began in January 2005. Vince is exceedingly responsiveness to concerns in the neighborhood. Vince attends monthly UPNA Steering Committee meetings and reports on activities in the neighborhood and helps us understand the City ordinances. Vince is a true partner in UPNA's effort to make the

Union Park neighborhood a desirable place to live.

Paul Sadler has been an active member of the Steering Committee of the UPNA since 1993 and has held multiple positions on the Steering Committee. Currently he serves as both Recording Secretary and Newsletter Editor. As Recording Secretary, he helps the Steering Committee keep on top of deadlines, watches for issues the Committee needs to act on and organizes and preserves UPNA's documents, information and history. He often attends City meetings and other events for the Steering Committee and reports back. He is always ready to pitch in and help with the various UPNA projects. He cares about our neighborhood and is a good neighbor and friend.

## Garage Sale 2010

For the past 4 years, Meghan Daugherty has organized a neighborhood-wide garage sale on the fourth Saturday in May. This year, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Garage Sale

will be running on auto-pilot. Meghan is expecting a new bundle of joy about that time! Is an explanation needed? So go ahead and plan a garage sale on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and clean

up, clear out, and sell that stuff! If you've been thinking of having a sale, why not have it then anyway? Next year we hope to get back on track.

## Needed: Lawn of the Week Awards Coordinator

The UPNA Steering Committee needs someone to coordinate the Lawn of the Week Award for this year. If you enjoy meeting people and rewarding them for their outstanding front yards, and don't mind doing some walking around the neighborhood, this is the job for you. UPNA has sponsored the Lawn of the Week Award since 1992. Last Fall 13 neighbors were

honored whose front yards exemplified neatness, good landscape design and consistent quality of yard maintenance. This is a very important award and speaks well for your neighbor who receives this honor. Please let us know if you are interested in coordinating this activity. Contact any of the officers for more information.



# Half Century Residence & Neighborhood Star Awards

How long have you lived in the same house or in Union Park Neighborhood? Iowans are known for their love of home and land. Two Programs, sponsored by the Union Park Neighborhood Association, will be recognizing neighborhood residents who have lived in the same house or neighborhood for fifty years or more.

The purpose of these programs are to call attention to and honor our neighborhood’s long-time residents. The living memory and the presence of these individuals in our neighborhood contribute a distinct sense of place to Union Park and a source of stability within a quickly changing world.

These are on-going programs, and applications can be submitted at any time. The Association will continue to present these awards at future General Meetings of the Association. **Eligibility Requirements: All applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements.**

**For the Half Century Residence Award:** The resident must have lived in one house continuously for 50 years in the Union Park Neighborhood.

**For the Neighborhood Star Award:** The resident must have lived continuously for 50 years in several houses in the Union Park Neighborhood

**For the Silver Star Award:** The resident must have lived in the same house in the Union Park Neighborhood that was occupied by his/her parents, grandparents, children or grandchildren for 50 years straight.

Applicant must reside at this house at the time of application.

House must be within UPNA boundaries, which are: The south side of Hull Ave. on the north, the railroad tracks on the east, the north side of Washington Ave. on the south, and the Des Moines River and the east side of Second Ave. on the west.

Absence for military service can be counted toward the fifty years if the resident returned to the same house

The purpose of these Awards are to recognize continuous residence. If you think special circumstances warrant an exception, please explain why.

Applicant need not be a member of the Union Park Neighborhood Association

Applicant’s signature, which is required, authorizes the publication of the applicant’s name in the Association’s newsletter.

All decisions of the Award Committee will be final.

## Half Century Residence, Silver Star & Neighborhood Star Award Application

Please print or type this application Names will appear on the recognition certificates exactly as they appear on this application.

Today’s Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Year your residence in the house began \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Des Moines, IA Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

If residence in the house is non-continuous, list years not at house and explain why

If known, date of home’s construction \_\_\_\_\_ Were you first occupant? (Not required) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the addresses and the time of your continuous residence in Union Park, OR, the address of you family home, its occupants, and their time of residence. \_\_\_\_\_

If an ancestor resided at this property, list name(s) and relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to be interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_ Other Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Please Mail to: Union Park Neighborhood Association, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402

# Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE  
Spring General Meeting  
May 18, 7PM  
Union Park Baptist Church

## BECOME A MEMBER / SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

9-digit zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Form is also available on our website at [www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly Dues: Three levels of Membership:** \$10.00 Family membership, \$25 Supporter, \$30 Business  
please mail to UPNA Treasurer, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Paul Cole at 263-1885.

All memberships renew on January 1st.

I am interested in:

- Helping with the Lawn of the Week Program
- Serving on the Steering Committee
- Assisting with the Newsletter
- Helping plant trees and flowers
- Helping on UPNA's Home Tour

- Having my house on the Home Tour
- Helping with Jazz in July
- Helping with Rendezvous on Riverview
- Helping with \_\_\_\_\_

More information on \_\_\_\_\_

---