

# UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.unionparkdsm.com

Volume 10 Issue 4

October 2010

## Inside this issue:

“Snow Priority Street”	2
This and That	3
CodeRED	4
Union Park The Four Pillars	4
Rollin’ Relics	5
Jazz in July	5

## Fall General Meeting

**Thursday, October 21th, at 7:00 PM**  
**Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur Ave**

The UPNA Fall General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 21<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Union Park Baptist Church, 821 Arthur AVE. We are planning on four guest speakers. David Miller is an Engineer with the Public Works Department and he will answer questions on the Lower Union Park Sewer Separation Project that is currently underway. Mike Gaul is the Parks and Recreation Department Manager for Union Park. He will talk to us about various topics including the Pillars project, Birdland Lagoon development, native grass areas, and the playground improvements. Steve Klinkefus is the President of Rollin’ Relics Car Club and he will talk about their recent successful Cruise to the Carousel car show. Pat Kozita, Deputy Public Works Director will explain how the Snow Priority Streets program will make travel and parking on our street easier in the Union Park area this winter.

Also on the agenda will be an update on the year’s accomplishments and election of officers. 2011 calendars and tee shirts will be available for purchase. For maps & directions to the Union Park Baptist Church, go to <http://www.upbcdesmoines.com>

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

## "Snow Priority Street"

Residents in the Union Park neighborhood will enjoy better snow removal than we had last winter thanks to Des Moines Public Work's new "Snow Priority Streets" program.

Sixteen neighborhoods, in all wards of the City of Des Moines, including Union Park, have agreed to participate in the program. Look for signs to be posted by October 30<sup>th</sup> in these neighborhoods designating them as "Snow Priority Streets".

The City of Des Moines has 225 centerline miles (709 lane miles) of "Snow Routes" which are major arterial streets and collectors roads that receive the highest priority for snow removal in order to move the majority of the city's traffic. Under the program, Snow Routes will continue to receive the first priority for snow removal and treatment. But after that, neighborhoods that are designated as "Snow Priority Streets" will be next in line and we won't have to wait until 4 inches of snow has fallen as in years past. Snow Priority Streets will get plowed after every snowfall of an inch or more which will result in a better job of snow removal to allow the sun and chemicals to do their job to make the streets safer to travel on.

The Public Works Department has been building up a fleet of "wing plows", so called because of a large blade that extends from the side of the truck, which combined with an underbody plow, allows the snow plows to make only two passes down a street instead of four. Using this new equipment in residential areas will make snow removal more efficient by reducing plow time by 33

percent and save taxpayers money in overtime, better fuel economy and less wear and tear on equipment

Last winter, the program was approved in the Waterbury area with great success. Meredith and Douglas Acres neighborhoods participated in the "Pilot Program" and the results were "excellent". Because of the success in these three neighborhoods the program was opened up to all neighborhoods in the city.

Because the wing plows are so big, they cannot be efficiently used on residential street where vehicles are parked. The key to making this work is to enforce a parking ban on residential streets during snow events so they can clear roadways from curb to curb and minimize snow build-up on the street surface and the resulting icing conditions. That means that when snow removal operations are in progress, residents must move their cars off the streets to allow for snow removal.

Residents will be given notice to move parked vehicles prior to ticketing, through the local media (TV, radio, Des Moines Register website), the City of Des Moines website, or by email notification to subscribers ([snow@dm.gov](mailto:snow@dm.gov)). The parking ban is enforced by the Des Moines Police Department by issuing a \$35 ticket for each violation. Once the plow has passed the cars can go back on the streets.

Des Moines is the only city in the Metro Area that does not have parking restrictions in residential areas during snow removal operations, other than designated Snow Routes. The City Council is currently considering an ordinance to ban parking during snow removal operations on Snow Priority Streets. The first reading was September 11<sup>th</sup> which passed with unanimous approval. The next two readings are October 11, 2010 and October 25, 2010, and are expected to pass without objection.



## This and That

Union Park is now on Twitter! You can follow the Union Park Neighborhood Association on Twitter at Union-Park\_DSM. Union Park Neighborhood Association will use this twitter page to provide important updates about meetings and community events. Be sure to follow us and share any Union Park news or memories you have.

Diane Schaefer Johnson, is a long time resident of the Union Park area and a Past UPNA Secretary. Diane has served on the East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Board for the past three years and is currently the Vice-President. For more than 30 years, the EDMC has served as the voice of East side business. In 2008, the EDMC became a stand-alone organization and presently serves about 100 business members. Members of EDMC engage in a variety of activities and networking events, become involved in the larger business community, and grow their businesses through increased involvement. For more information on the East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, go to: <http://www.edmchamber.org/index.php>

The Lower Union Park Sewer Separation project started this fall with many trees marked for removal, which was not mentioned at an information meeting at Hyatt School on June 22nd. Residents protested about so many trees sacrificed. City Manager Rick Clark issued a cease and desist order on removing trees until a full review was completed. Work started up again after contractors and engineers demonstrated why each tree had to go. Currently, construction work is taking place at the intersection of East 9th and Thompson and is

closed to traffic. Work will go on into 2011.

A new building is being considered at the northeast corner of E. 14th and Guthrie. The developers intend to construct an approximately 11,500 square foot general practice clinic for Iowa Health Systems. A rezoning application is being considered by the City. An information meeting was held September 22nd to discuss the proposed project with nearby neighbors and give them an opportunity to provide input. The rezoning would "down-zone" the property where the used car lot is currently located from C-2 to C-1, thereby making it unlikely another auto dealership will locate on this corner. The clinic design will be similar to other Iowa Health Systems Clinics in the City and will be a welcome improvement at that intersection.

To the south of the Union Park area, in the Capitol Park neighborhood, the old Wallace Elementary School is under consideration for use as an auction house. It would not be a 24/7 operation. Minimal activity would take place during the days except on auction days once a week. A rezoning application is under consideration by the City.

For the third year, "Movies in the Park" returned to Union Park every Saturday night in September. The movies were family fare and enjoyed by all who attended. An inflatable screen, Kybos, wash stations, trash cans and concessions and a generator were all brought in and, remarkably, everything disappeared after the people left. Nothing but footprints were

visible the next morning. We hope the Movies in the Park will come back again next year!

Grand View University broke ground this summer on the construction of the new apartment building set for completion in the fall of 2011. The four-story residence building, located near the corner of Hull and East 14th Street, will house 232 students in approximately 95,000 square feet. It will contain two- and four-bedroom units, complete with full kitchens, community living area and large private bathroom. Seventy-two parking spaces will also be added adjacent to the building.

Grand View University's Rasmussen Center for Community Advancement Professions was named a runner-up in the Smartest Building in America Challenge, in which judges consider criteria such as the use of Apogee or Talon building automation systems to achieve business, efficiency or sustainability goals, as well as innovative features or capabilities orchestrated by building owners and facility managers. As a runner-up in the contest, Grand View is entitled to \$15,000 in products and services from the building technologies division of Siemens USA or a \$15,000 donation to a qualified charity. The Rasmussen Center, a 40,000-square-foot academic building completed in the fall of 2008, is located on the northwest corner of East 14th Street and Grandview Avenue. For more information, go to [www.smartestbuildinginamerica.com](http://www.smartestbuildinginamerica.com).

## 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!

#### A NOTE:

November 20th is the last City of Des Moines SCRUB weekend. Three areas are open. The Metro Transfer Station 4198 Delaware Ave, open 7 am to 1 pm: Metro Compost Center 1601 Harriett open 8 am to 1 pm: and the Metro Park East Landfill 12181 University Ave 8 am to 1pm.

## CodeRED Emergency Notification System

On September 16<sup>th</sup> you might have received a phone call from the Polk County Emergency Management, telling you they were testing their CodeRED Notification System. I hope you didn't think it was just another robocall and hung up on it. If you listened, you would have learned how this important system can help you in times of emergency.

As a part of National Preparedness Month, Polk County Emergency Management tested this new communication tool that can literally call thousands of telephone numbers per second to notify residents of emergency conditions, such as evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices, and missing child reports or other incidents where timely notification of the public is crucial. It will NEVER be used for telemarketing or other unofficial purposes and your information will always be kept confidential.

This system is so sophisticated that in a matter of

minutes they can identify a geographic area the size of a few streets and target just the homes and businesses in that area to warn them of a situation. Or they can notify every home and business in Polk County, depending on the size of the event.

#### IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A CALL:

The CodeRED Emergency Notification system is capable of providing residents with recorded telephone messages, text messages and/or e-mail alerts. Many people no longer have landlines, or prefer to have the notifications go to their cell phone. Those residents need to "enroll" to receive information in the format they choose. If you did not receive a call on September 16<sup>th</sup> you need to enroll. Signing-up for CodeRED is free. (You may be charged for incoming calls, messages and data on your devices. Please contact your mobile service provider to find out the cost.)

All residents and businesses should go to the Polk County Emergency

Management website, [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/), click on the CodeRED logo located on the right side of the homepage and enter contact information, including additional phone numbers, and text and email addresses, to ensure all of the data in their system is accurate and current. Again, your contact information is confidential and they will safeguard your information to ensure that it is not used for any reason other than emergency notification.

If you do not have internet access, please contact a friend or family member to help add your contact information to the emergency database. You can also call the Polk County Emergency Management directly at 515-286-2107 for assistance.

For more information please visit the following websites: <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergencymanagement/> Follow us on Facebook <http://tinyurl.com/polkema> [www.twitter.com/](http://www.twitter.com/)

## Union Park - The Four Pillars

UPNA has received another Community Betterment grant from the Polk County Board of Supervisors to continue work on the four pillars at the cor-

ner of East 9th and Jefferson. Last year, the pillars were restored and tuck-pointed. The grant will pay for a raised planter and cement work that will pro-

vide a symbolic entryway into Union Park. More information will be in the next newsletter, but watch this area for changes.

## Rollin' Relics Car Club Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show in Union Park

On a beautiful Sunday morning, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Rollin' Relics Car Club attracted more than 180 classic and vintage cars to Union Park for their annual car show benefitting the Heritage Carousel. This was the largest turnout, surpassing 2009's record number by more than 30 cars. The club's mission for this show is to subsidize the cost of Carousel rides for kids by keeping the nominal \$.50 per ride fee. Carousel rides were free during the car show with more than 1800 free rides provided that day.

Mayor Frank Cownie recognized the Rollin Relics with a proclamation on September 27<sup>th</sup> for their \$6,000 contribution from this year's show, up from \$4,000 donated in 2009. Over the past 10 years, the club has donated over \$20,000! In addition to offsetting the cost of rides, these contributions have helped pay for maintenance of the Carousel, such as repainting and upkeep of the carousel animals.

The club raises money through car

registration fees, concession stand sales, sponsorships from car clubs statewide, a portion of donated auctioned items (car care products, tools, and related items) and from a drawing held the day of the show. Additionally there are door prizes and 'goodie bags' for most of the participants.

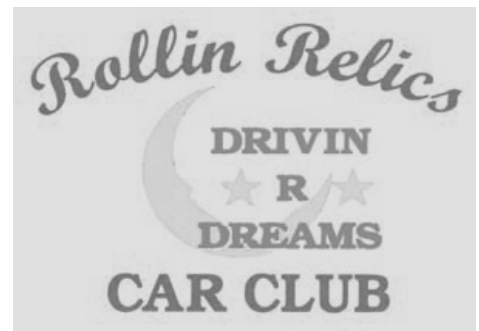
Union Park Neighborhood Association sponsored a \$50 award which was given to Jack and Anita Saffell of West Des Moines. Their stunning entry, shown by Anita, was a two-tone beige 1948 Chevrolet Fleetline classic. A total of 38 awards were given during the show. The club appreciates UPNA's continued sponsorship of a yearly award.

Steve Klinkufus, President of Rollin' Relics, said the car show continues to grow, in part because of the great setting among the trees at Union Park and the perfect weather in recent years. People also come back to participate because the Carousel is such a worthwhile cause. While they get lots of positive response from Des Moines and the

greater metro, there were 50 or more cars which came to participate from outside the 'golden circle' 60 mile distance.

Of the car club's 90 or so members, more than 60 of them volunteered to put on the show; their members are very committed to their mission to the Carousel and the quality of the cars and their owners.

During the proclamation ceremony, on September 27<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Cownie said the reputation of Union Park has grown steadily, with the help of the dedicated Neighborhood Based Service Delivery officers.



## Union Park Hosts Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz in July Event

On July 11<sup>th</sup> UPNA hosted Jazz in July in Union Park on a beautiful Sunday afternoon under the shade trees near the East Shelter. 250 attendees from the greater Des Moines metro area brought their lawn chairs as well as an interest in hearing great live music. The free concert featured Paul Micich's World Port jazz group, with CJC (Community Jazz Center) Youth Combo starting things off. During the concert, free rides on the Heritage Carousel were sponsored by Incredible Pizza – 'kids' of all ages took a whirl or two during the 2 ½ hour concert.

UPNA provided welcome treats including AE lemonade and fresh cookies from Hy-Vee, snacks from Highland Park Little League and delicious ice cream from Kaleidoscoops.

The afternoon was funded in part by a Polk County Community Betterment Grant awarded by Angela Connelly, Polk County Supervisor. Our working partners included Metro Arts Alliance, Rolling Thunder Stage Company and a great group of neighborhood volunteers who helped throughout the day.

For the past 28 years Metro Arts Al-

liance has awarded jazz concert sites across central Iowa. UPNA has been awarded a site 4 years running. The first concert was held at Union Park Health Services / Union Park Baptist Church parking lots; the event moved to Union Park in 2008. Metro Arts Executive Director, Kim Poam Logan and her family attended the concert and were very impressed with our beautiful park. Her 3 young children liked the Carousel better!

Thanks to all of you who volunteered and to the listeners who heard great jazz that day.

# Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE

**Fall General Meeting**  
**October 21th at 7:00 pm**  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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