



UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.unionparkdsm.com

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Spring General Meeting

Tuesday, May 24th, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur Ave

The UPNA Spring General Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24th, 7pm at Union Park Baptist Church located at 821 Arthur. 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 Public Works to address the progress on the Sewer Separation project. Marty Mauk will talk about a Representative School Board campaign that proposes to elect board members from wards rather than at large. Missy Harken is a volunteer at the Animal Rescue League and will inform us about the People Safe/Pet Friendly program. The Parks and Recreation Department will update us on Union Park.

Jazz in July in Union Park

Union Park Neighborhood Association will host Jazz in July in Union Park on Sunday afternoon, July 10th from 2 - 4pm. Come hear live jazz under the shade trees near the East Shelter, located just west of Thompson Avenue and East 9th. (Remember Thompson Avenue will be closed for completion of the sewer separation project this summer so plan an alternate route).

This year our concert is corporately sponsored by Neighborhood Finance Corp. (NFC). We thank Holly Olson, Executive Director, for providing the funding for the band. Music will be provided by the trio Workshop. Heritage Carousel will be giving free rides during the 2 hour concert, thanks to the sponsorship of U.S. Bank.

Tentative plans for a showing of Grand View University art students' work are being discussed. Union Park Neighborhood Association will provide treats during the concert so bring your lawn chairs or blankets, the kids and dogs for a lovely afternoon in our beautiful park.

In the event of rain the concert will be cancelled.

www.unionparkdsm.com - Visit our website for news, information, agendas, past newsletters, calendars and t-shirts.

ROR

Rendezvous on Riverview is back for the third year. You can come and enjoy FREE concerts every Friday in June and July.

Rendezvous on Riverview is a weekly neighborhood get-together beginning at 5:30 pm and ending at 9:30 pm. Each week will feature a different live band. Food (hot dogs, hamburgers, walking tacos), pop, beer and wine will be available.

The levee is still under construction so the concerts won't be on Riverview Island. Instead, our events are next to the island at 3010 6th Avenue (at the corner of 6th Avenue and Boston Avenue

just North of Ginos restaurant).

This is an event brought to you by TPAN (The Parks Area Neighborhoods) which consists of Union, Highland and Oak Park Neighborhood Associations as well as Kiwanis Riverview Nature Island. The major funding comes from a Community Betterment grant from the Polk County Board of supervisors. So next time you see Angela Connolly, our Polk County Supervisor, be sure to thank her for making this possible.

Bands scheduled to appear are: Flipside, Final Mix, Brother Trucker, Spam, Matt Woods, Out of the Blue, Route 66, Hold On and two others are yet to be

announced.

Our rain venue is the New York Event Center at 516 New York Avenue (across the street from Ginos)



National Night Out

For the past several years, the Union Park United Methodist Church has sponsored National Night Out activities. This year, National Night Out will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 2nd from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at their church at 2305 East 12th Street (corner of East 12th and Guthrie). They invite their neighbors to a cookout, games, and music in their parking lot.

The goals of National Night Out, include heighten crime and drug preven-

tion, support for anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and partnerships between the community and police and to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. The UP United Methodist Church is an important partner in the neighborhood and it is a welcoming place to worship. For more information, contact the church at 515-262-2875.



Graffiti !

Any kind of graffiti should be reported immediately to the Graffiti Hotline at 237-1808. Citizens may report graffiti 24 hours at the hotline number. You are not required to give your name.

Graffiti is called the newspaper of street for gangs, used to mark territory and issue challenges to rival gangs. It is done by copy cats that are not gang related and it is sometimes considered "art" by the person doing it. All of it is vandalism and it is punishable if they are caught and many of them are, thanks to citizens. Graffiti of any kind

degrades the neighborhood and encourages violence.

Remember the "Four R's of Graffiti":

Report it - call the police and tell them where it is.

Read it - police will gather what intelligence they can from the graffiti. Convictions are often made by citizen's cooperation.

Record it - Police will take a picture of it for evidence. You may want to photograph it yourself to make sure.

Remove it - after the police have visited the site, and taken their own pictures of the graffiti, remove it. Often the only means to remove it is to cover it with paint.

Each of these steps is important, including the removal of the graffiti. Property owners are required to keep their property free of graffiti. When a problem is identified the owner is given a reasonable time period to clean the violation. If the graffiti is not clean it is done by the City and billed back to the property owner.

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!

City of Des Moines 2011 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 <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks/Pages/ScrubCalendar.aspx>.

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 AGAIN 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.

May 21

September 17

June 18

October 15

July 16

November 19

August 20



Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity will soon build four homes in the Union Park neighborhood! Our new neighbors will be located at: 2910 1st Street - 2333 E. 9th Street - 2410 E. 13th Street - 2612 Bowdoin.

The homes, all new construction, are set to begin construction in early Fall 2011. Three of the houses will be ranch-style and one will be a two-story. All of the locations were previously foreclosed properties that had become a blight on the community and will now help to revitalize the neighborhood.

Habitat for Humanity is not a giveaway program. In addition to a down payment and monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor (sweat equity) into building their Habitat for Humanity house and the houses of others. Habitat for Humanity houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with a 20-year no-interest loan. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat for Humanity houses.

In 2010, the Des Moines community partnered with Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity to build hope for 22 home-buyer families. In 2011 we plan to complete 25 homes, bringing the total Habitat homes to 168. For more information please contact Jason Ekstrom (jekstrom@gdmhabitat.org) at 471-8686 ext. 109.

Park and Recreation Department Update

Spring has finally arrived. Flowers are beginning to bloom and Union Park is becoming more active. Soon we will be planting the formal gardens with vibrant annuals and a collection of Dahlias. If anyone would like to volunteer to help plant we would gladly accept the help in getting these displays ready for summer. Please contact us if you are interested at 265-2277.

Mowing has begun and the restrooms are ready for use. Shelter rental season began April 30th and will be available until mid October. If you would like to

rent one of the shelters to hold a party or gathering please call 237-1386 or visit us on the web at www.dsmparks.org. Birdland Shelter remains closed due to levee construction and renovation but should be opening back up next spring. Another construction note, in Union Park is the painting of the Rocket Slide which will occur sometime this spring/summer. The area will be closed for a short time but will be ready for years of play after painting is complete along with the new surfacing which was installed last fall.

There are several activities to enjoy at Union Park this season: Heritage Carousel rides, a walk around the circle, playgrounds, picnic areas, flower gardens, open space, tennis, and mark your calendars for outdoor movies each Saturday night coming this September.

Please enjoy your park and be respectful of other park users while using the park and remember a bag to pick up your dog waste.

Thank you. Horticulture Inspector, Mike Gaul, 265-2277.

Quik Trip

Quik Trip Corporation wants to expand its off-street parking at their store located at the intersection of East 14th and Guthrie. They own the adjacent property to the north which is zoned R1-60(residential) and want to add 9 parking spaces there. QT wants the new parking spaces to line up with existing parking, which places them less than the minimum required setback from East 14th. These issues require an exception granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment which met April 27th to consider their appeal.

Union Park Neighborhood Association and 2 neighbors sent 'comment cards' to

the city, disapproving of QT's request. Reasons cited include excessive (delivery truck) noise (after hours), a drop in property values, concern that QT would use the expansion to add additional gas pumps in the future, better use of land along East 14th than gas stations; in short, a benefit for QT but not for our neighborhood.

Based on City Staff recommendations, regardless of neighbors' concerns, the Board passed the appeal, granting QT their request.

However on April 29th, City Staff discovered a 1998 ordinance that actually prohibits QT's expansion. This means

that QT will have to request a rezoning through the Plan & Zoning Commission and City Council before any expansion can occur. UPNA will be notified if and when QT submits a rezoning application for consideration.

The Union Park Neighborhood Association Steering Committee plans to invite a QT representative and concerned neighbors to an upcoming monthly meeting to discuss the situation. Monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday at 7pm at the Humphrey Center, Rodholm Chapel - 2nd floor, Grand View University.

Stay tuned!

Botanical Center

In the February newsletter we reported on the proposed changes to the Botanical Center. Since then the private group making the proposal has cleared several required steps:

Zoning Board of Adjustment approved the Center and surrounding land as eligible for Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Plan and Zoning Commission approved the closure of Robert Ray Drive from I-235 north to East 6th Street on April 7th. This includes closing the bike trailhead located under University Avenue at the "V" in the road. On April 25th the City Council approved to hear the "vacation and long-term lease, operation, management

and maintenance agreement of Des Moines Botanical Center and adjacent grounds including a portion of Robert Ray Drive to Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden" at the May 9th City Council meeting. This was included in the consent agenda with no public input.

It appears the city council and mayor plan to vote in favor of this on 5/9/11, clearing the way for the private group to begin their fundraising effort to transform the land, landscape and road closure. There has been little public comment, despite the fact that approximately 1400 vehicles per day use this road. An issue has been raised and may

be/ has been considered by Friends of the Botanical Center Board regarding opening the fenced-off gardens to the public periodically since the land is 'publicly owned'. No group has claimed responsibility for the approximate \$200,000 of current repairs needed for the existing Center. Tax dollars must fund it if the group's \$10,000,000 campaign does not include this expenditure.

There are many unanswered questions but it appears this proposal will happen....unless YOU have questions you are willing to ask City Council on Monday, May 9th. The meeting convenes at 4:30pm at City Hall.

Bob Mahaffey, Citizen of the Year

The East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce recognized lifetime east-sider Bob Mahaffey as Citizen of the Year last February at their annual dinner and awards ceremony. We want to add our congratulations!

To us, Bob has been our hard working City Councilman for the past 8 years but more importantly he has been our long time friend. Among the projects he was cited for was his help in rebuilding of the east side after the summer floods we've experienced in the past few years as well as the East Village development, East High School's stadium renovation

and partnership with Grand View University and planning for a new clubhouse at the Grandview Golf Course. He continues to play an active role in the community, by serving on boards and commissions including the Grand View University board of trustees, Presbytery of Des Moines treasurer, Greater East Side Development Board, Bidwell Riverside board treasurer and the Des Moines Plan and Zoning Commission.

Actually this is the second time Bob has been awarded the Citizen of the Year by the East Des Moines Chamber

of Commerce. Bob first received the award in 1998.

Bob Mahaffey, 76, has worked at Anderson Erickson Dairy for more than 40 years, and is currently vice president of the east-side family dairy that employs over 575 workers.

Congratulations, Bob and thank you for all that you do!



Saylor Road and Birdland Drive Update

As the Birdland Levee construction continues, Saylor Road was closed April 25th to allow the construction of a levee closure and reconstruction of a parking lot for the Birdland Shelter. The closure is expected to be a gate that can be closed when high water threatens. Saylor Road will remain closed for several months this summer. As a part of the project, UPNA was informed that it is necessary to remove a total of four large

trees – two on each side of Saylor Road in the project area. UPNA has been assured the tree removal will be “mitigated” by planting additional trees outside the clear zone of the levee after the projects are completed.

Birdland Drive has been closed as a result of the levee construction. Area residents are nervous if the Drive will re-open, however UPNA has been assured

by the Parks and Recreation Department that it is their desire to open it again to traffic and estimate an optimistic mid-summer target date. Weather and other factors affecting the levee construction could delay the re-opening of Birdland Drive. Birdland Drive is a Parks Department road, not a City street.

We Have Lost a Great Friend

Long-time Union Park Neighborhood resident Margaret Swanson passed away March 16 at Taylor House Hospice in Des Moines at the age of 91. We celebrate her life.

Margaret was one of the founders of the Union Park Neighborhood Association. The first UPNA record we have is a set of minutes from the December 5, 1988 meeting. Margaret Swanson and Fred Gay were Co-Chairs. The name “Union Park Neighborhood Association” apparently was a temporary name, and they were discussing where the boundaries should be. Even though the group was just organized, they already were taking up tough questions

about zoning, used car lots, overgrown lawns, junk, and – Bill Ritchie’s favorite – planting trees.

By 1991, UPNA was a Designated Neighborhood. In 1993, the UPNA Action Plan was approved by the City and, in 1997, UPNA became a Chartered Neighborhood. Margaret Swanson was a guiding force that entire time.

Margaret always believed in our Union Park neighborhood and worked hard to improve it. She continued to attend UPNA meetings and support the goals and programs of the Association until about 2007, when she moved to Rose Glen from her salmon-colored Victorian home on Penn Avenue.

Margaret brought to the table her vast experience from serving on a multitude of civic boards and commissions over the years. She was a volunteer powerhouse and was described by the *Business Record* in 1999 as a “well-known and most beloved volunteer.” She was honored and praised for her work by many leaders, yet she was humble. She served because she loved doing it.

Her untiring advocacy for the neighborhood and the association, and her wise counsel when we faced controversial issues will be missed. She truly was an example of selfless service.



Opening weekend May 14th & 15th!

The Heritage Carousel happily begins its 13th season this spring! The Carousel provided over 47,000 rides last year and is pleased to continue on with its mission of offering an affordable, wholesome and family oriented activity. The price of a child's ride continues to be just 50¢ and frequent opportunities for reduced or free events are worked into the season each year.

Revenue from animal adoptions, sponsored events and small & large group rentals continue to help keep a ride at its original price. Options now exist for small and large groups to use the Carousel for private rentals or for unlimited ride rentals during open hours. It is a favorite for birthday parties but also is utilized often by schools and non-profit organizations or gatherings, receptions for weddings and reunions and has become a unique spot for graduation, engagement and wedding photos!

The Rollin' Relics Car Club continues to be the largest annual contributor to the Carousel, having donated nearly \$20,000 from the "Cruise to the Carousel" for the past 10 years. These contributions have provided for bi-annual restorative painting of the animals (after this fall each animal will have been worked on and continued touch-up work as well as work on the crown and core of the Carousel will be pursued), and maintenance on the pavilion.

The Carousel enjoys the support from many "regular Carousel Kids" from the Union Park Neighborhood. We are pleased to offer any member of this association a \$5 discount on a Family or Grandparent Season Pass. Please contact Susan by e-mail: information@heritagecarousel.org, through the website (www.heritagecarousel.org), by phone at 323-8200 for this discount!

Hours:

May 14th & 15th, May 21st & 22 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

May 28th through August 24th

Tues – Thurs Noon – 7

Fri – Sun 11 – 8

Open Mondays for holidays, rentals and special events

The Committee for a Representative School Board

The Committee for a Representative School Board announced they have launched a new campaign web site at www.crsb2011.com.

The CRSB is a local school board political action committee and formally filed a statement of organization with the Iowa Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board on February 25, 2011.

Suzette Jensen, CRSB Co-Chair stated, "The change from electing all school board members at large to a ward system is a long overdue change. Meetings are now being scheduled and held with community leaders and groups throughout the Des Moines public school district."

Des Moines school district voters will be able to read more about the local school board ballot initiative, request a yard sign or vote by mail ballot and contribute to the campaign committee by visiting this new web site. The Des Moines School Board election will be held on September 13, 2011.

CRSB Executive Committee:
Marty Mauk, Co-Chair
Suzette Jensen, Co-Chair & Secretary
Cal Woods, Treasurer

Please contact the Executive Committee at [515-802-2527](tel:515-802-2527), or email crsb2011@gmail.com for additional information or visit the web site at www.crsb2011.com.



This and That:

Thompson Avenue from East 12th Street to E 13th Street closed Wednesday, April 27, 2011 for approximately two months for sewer construction.

The intersection at East 13th Street and Morton Avenue closed Tuesday, May 3, 2011 for approximately one month, also for sewer construction. If there are questions, contact City of Des Moines Project Engineer; Roger Joanning at 283-4076.

Northeast Neighbors of Des Moines sponsored "A Northeast Des Moines Leadership Reception" on April 18th at the Eastside Library. Neighborhood leaders, business and elected leaders were present to meet and interact. Mayor Frank Cownie was the special speaker. Marty Mauk is the Chair of the Northeast Neighbors Board of Directors.

Progress is continuing at the NE Corner of Guthrie and East 14th. Construction of a 11,500 square foot general practice clinic is moving right along now that the dirt work is completed. It is framed in and has a roof on it, the brick work is done. The address will be 2301 E 14th ST. The "Parks Area Family Physicians Clinic" will be affiliated with the Iowa Health Systems and will include urgent care as well as regular professional medical services.

The Union Park Garden Club is still looking for volunteers to help plant and care for gardens in Union Park this spring. Contact Yvonne or Tom McDermott at Unionparkgardenclub@yahoo.com or call 515-707-6873

The Union Park sponsored Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale will not be continued. The past five years it was loosely scheduled on the fourth Saturday in May. If anyone would like to volunteer to organize it, please contact us at info@UnionParkDSM.com

The Lawn of the Week Award program is without a coordinator. Volunteers to

coordinate the summer-long award programs should contact us at info@UnionParkDSM.com for information.

Grand View University won radio station of the year and newspaper of the year awards at the 2010 Iowa College Media Awards earlier this year in February. Both awards are repeat performances for the school's media organizations. KDPS-FM Radio won 17 of 21 radio awards given out, including best show and best air personality for the fifth year in a row. The student newspaper -The Grand Views, edited by Hallie Beeler - earned eight first-place finishes. The Iowa College Media Association sponsors annual contests for member student publications, radio and television stations, and production studios to promote journalism education and recognize excellence among Iowa's media students.

Preparations are being made for the 2011 session of Safety City, the Des Moines Police Department's safety program for children ages 4-5 preparing to enter kindergarten in the fall. Contact Kelly Fisher at 237-1545 or kfisher@dmgov.org for a registration form. Session dates are Monday through Friday, June 13-17, 9:00 to 11:30 am and 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Enrollment fee is \$35.00 and is first come, first serve.

The public is encouraged to attend a community meeting June 8th addressing how Iowans and their communities can undertake flood preparation, prevention and protection efforts. The "Don't Test the Waters" community meeting will be presented by the Iowa Flood Awareness Interagency Coalition as part of a two-year federally-funded flood awareness and mitigation program. For more information, go to www.donttestthewatersiowa.gov or contact Tom Alger, Iowa Insurance Division, (515) 242-5179, Tom.Alger@iid.iowa.gov

Remember dues are paid at the first of the year now. See the form at the back of the newsletter to join or renew your membership.

2011 Union Park calendars are still available at Found Things in East Village. They will be available at the Spring General Meeting. Or contact us at info@UnionParkDSM.com

Entries for the Heritage Carousel First Ride of the Season Contest Entries were accepted until May 2nd, but this is a yearly event. On Saturday May 14th, 30 names will be drawn to participate in the first ride of the season. Of the 30 kids, one will be drawn to pick out their favorite animal to ride and will receive a Heritage Carousel t-shirt. All 30 riders will receive free rides all day! There is no charge to participate. The contest is open to kids age 12 and younger. www.heritagecarousel.org/first_rider_contest.html

The 16th Annual National Rebuilding Together Day was Saturday May 7th. Thirty five homes were revitalized with the help of 800 volunteers in one day! Volunteers worked on 2434 Saylor Road. The volunteers donated a full day to improve the quality of life for the resident and strengthen the housing stock in this neighborhood. This program would not be a success if not for the hardworking, dedicated volunteers that join together each year to help improve the houses of low-income homeowners, especially the elderly, persons living with disability, and families with dependent children live in warmth, safety, and independence. If you would like to participate in future Rebuilding days, contact Mandi Borst at (515) 284-7403. Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, 1111 Ninth Street, Suite 265, Des Moines, IA 50314-2527 or info@rebuildingdm.org

Take down your Christmas lights and decorations. Now.

Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE
Spring General Meeting
May 24, 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

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 _____