

UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.unionparkdsm.com

Volume 12 Issue 2

May 2012

Spring General Meeting

Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00 PM

Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur AVE

Inside this issue:

2012 Rodine/Mickle Award	2
Easter Egg Hunt	3
New Pastor UP Presbyterian	3
Rendezvous on Riverview	4
Free Movies in Union Park	4
Birdland Shelter Lot & NE Corner of Union Park	4
Heritage Carousel	5
City Trims Trees on Thompson Ave	6
New HUD grant to Polk Co.	6
After School Program	6
This and That	7

The UPNA Spring General Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 22nd, 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 guest speakers include Parks and Recreation Department who will update us on Union Park and address the progress on the Birdland Shelter remodel. Officer Tim Fricke will represent the Des Moines Police Department and the law enforcement side of Neighborhood Based Service Delivery. It is always a pleasure to have Councilman Bob Mahaffey at our meeting to give us information about what is happening in our Neighborhood from a City Council perspective. We welcome Adam Voigts, Vice President of Grand View University, who will update us on progress on GVV initiatives.

Jazz in July in Union Park

Mark your calendars.....Union Park Neighborhood Association's Jazz in July concert will happen Sunday, July 8th. Bring the whole family, lawn chairs and friendly pets to hear Betsy Hickok and the Standards from 2 - 4pm on the lawn near the East Shelter on Thompson Avenue.

This is the sixth year of a jazz concert in or near the park! The Heritage Carousel will be open; kids can also enjoy the Rocket Slide and other playground equipment as well as the wading pool.

Union Park Neighborhood Association will provide free drinks and cookies. Ice cream and other treats will be available for purchase.

Come enjoy great music in our beautiful park. Meet your neighbors and take a nostalgic ride on the Carousel. We hope to see lots of our neighbors enjoy this fun afternoon in Union Park.

In the event of rain the concert will be cancelled.

UPNA Officers/Contacts

Chairs

Marsha Steele 265-8624
info@unionparkdsm.com

Correspondence Secretary

Carolyn Rogers
info@unionparkdsm.com

Recording Secretary / Newsletter

Paul Sadler 265-5372
info@unionparkdsm.com

Treasurer / Membership

Paul Cole 263-1885
ColePW@crosspaths.net

www.unionparkdsm.com - Visit our website for news and information.

2012 Alice Rodine – Robert Mickle Volunteer Awards

Five members of the Union Park Neighborhood Association attended the 2012 Alice Rodine-Robert Mickle Volunteer Awards and pot-luck, hosted by Des Moines Neighbors, on April 26 at the Mickle Center in Sherman Hill. The event was held to recognize individuals and businesses nominated by their neighborhoods to receive awards for their volunteer efforts and their commitment to improving their neighborhoods.

Jack Daugherty, former Co-Chair of the Union Park Neighborhood Association, received a citizen award *and* a special overall award for his tireless volunteer and fundraising efforts for the betterment of the Union Park Neighborhood. Specifically, he was honored for leading the flood recovery effort in the Birdland area in 2008 and spearheaded fundraising to restore the pillars and surrounding area in the southeast corner of Union Park,

Jack and his wife, Meghan, also have helped with other neighborhood activities, including the newsletter, Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale, Home Tour, Jazz in July festival, Movies in the Park, and the Lawn of the Week program. Jack was instrumental in designing a logo for UPNA for use on stationery and T-shirts. He initiated several fundraising efforts for the association, including a calendar that featured turn-of-the-century postcards of Union Park.

The emcee for the event, Des Moines Neighbors president Marty Mauk, explained who Alice Rodine and Robert Mickle were, and the values they stood for. He described how involved they were with City staff in their roles as advocates for Des Moines neighborhoods.

Des Moines Neighbors treasurer Bill Schoenenberger addressed the citizens, city employees, and busi-

nesses receiving awards, calling them exceptional leaders in their neighborhoods and families. “People in Des Moines benefit from all your work,” he said. Schoenenberger went on to compare small towns in Iowa to our “big city” neighborhoods, saying that they share the same Iowa values: neighbors helping neighbors.

State Senator Jack Hatch, who read the nominations, made specific mention of the city employee awardees: quiet professionals who interact with the public, addressing complaints and getting things done.

The accomplishments of all the awardees were impressive, and the entire evening reinforced the idea that the individuals and businesses who dedicate their time and talents to going the extra mile for their neighborhoods make Des Moines a great place to call home.



Meghan and Jack Daugherty with his awards



Union Park contingent at the Awards Dinner: from left to right; Marsha Steele, State Senator Jack Hatch, Jack & Meghan Daugherty, Carolyn & Dan Rogers

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 University 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!

Union Park for the Easter Egg Hunt

For the second year, the Union Park United Methodist Church invited neighborhood children to their Easter Egg Hunt in Union Park near the Carousel. The rain that threatened, and fell, on the afternoon of Saturday, April 7 did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the volunteers, parents, and children that came out to Union Park for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Church members picked up litter in the park, and hid eggs. Anticipation was high as the 2:00 hour approached. Easter Bunny himself oversaw the activities and was available for photos. Eggs were found and scooped up in a matter of minutes. There were prizes to be claimed, and cookies, popcorn, and punch to be enjoyed.

Many of the parents and children accompanied the Easter Bunny to Heritage Carousel at the park for more fun and photo opportunities. The Easter Bunny was seated on a bench on the ride and children were able to ride along with him. The Easter Bunny enjoyed the music and the company immensely.

Time finally came for the Easter Bunny to bid us all goodbye and hopped off to get ready for the big day.



The UP United Methodist Church, located at 2305 East 13th Street (corner of East 12th and Guthrie) 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.

Union Park Presbyterian Church Calls New Pastor

The congregation of Union Park Presbyterian Church bid a fond farewell Easter Sunday to interim pastor Rev. Dr. Robert Cook, and the following Sunday welcomed their new full-time pastor, Rev. John Gilmore, and his wife, Peggy.

Rev. Gilmore recently finished a 20 year pastorate at St. Paul Presbyterian church in Johnston, where the couple lives. Married 42 years, they

have three grown sons and three grandsons.

Rev. Gilmore is a graduate of Du- buque (IA) Theological Seminary, and enjoys spending time with family, taking long walks with Peggy, riding his bicycle, reading, taking road trips for vacation, and many sports.

He views the church as a commu-

nity of faith where people are accepted unconditionally and can experience a community of compassion, love, and strength.

The church invites you to meet the Gilmores at worship on Sunday mornings at ten, followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Rendezvous On Riverview 2012

Rendezvous on Riverview is back for the fourth consecutive year! Recently Angela Connolly, our Polk County Supervisor announced that the Board has approved the group's application to the Polk County Community Betterment Grant to fund the event again this year.

The events will be in the same place and time as last year. You can come join the party every Friday in June and July from 5:50 to 9:30. The address is 3010 6th Avenue, or the corner of 6th and Boston just north of North High School and Gino's Restaurant. There is free parking in a gravel lot on Corning Avenue just adjacent to the site. These 9 FREE concerts are organized by Union Park, Highland Park and Oak Park Neighborhood

Associations as well as the Kiwanis. The grass lot is a nice, relaxing area to gather with your neighbors and friends, have a drink and listen to some great local bands. See below for a listing of this year's entertainers. As in the past, ever since the first event, we will continue to serve up some great food too. Hamburgers, giant hot dogs, Brat Burgers, Walking Tacos, soda pop and other snacks will be on the menu. We will also keep the prices low, which everyone seems to love. We usually have beach balls, hula hoops and other fun things for the kids to play around with and the lot is fenced off from the street so the kids can stretch their legs a little without parents having to worry too much. If you are more of a sitter than a dancer, feel free to bring a

blanket or lawn chair to relax on. Our attendance has been steadily growing since we started four years ago so please stop down and bring as many hungry and thirsty friends as you like!

The 2012 ROR Bands:

June 1: Beau Nystrom Band

June 7: Boomerang Band

June 15: Backstage Boogie Band

June 22: Brother Trucker

June 29: Abby Normal

July 6: Ben 2K – Fireworks

July 13: Final Mix with Del "Saxman" Jones

July 20: Celler Dwellers

July 27: Hold On

Free Movies in Union Park

Movies in the park will be back for two shows this year! Budgets have been cut but UPNA feels this is such a great event for our neighborhood we have donated funds to keep it going. We are going old school this year and chose some classics that the whole family can enjoy! August

25th The Goonies will be shown and September 8th will be Back to the Future! The movie will start at sundown so bring those chairs and blankets. Parks and Rec will have a snack vender wagon onsite to purchase sodas, snacks and popcorn but as always please remember to pick

up your trash and keep our park clean. Volunteers will be needed to help with setup and tear down, please contact Meghan Daugherty at meghaned@hotmail.com or 515-491-1953 if you would like to help!

Birdland Shelter Lot & NE Corner of Union Park

Are you wondering when the Birdland Shelter parking lot will be completed? So are we. Here's current information from City Staff:

This project is controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers and is one of the last items to be completed under the new levee project. A city engineer is the liaison with the Corps and is working to provide Union Park Neighborhood Association with a status report. As soon as details become available, we will update our website and Facebook page.

Many neighborhood residents have also been wondering when the northeast corner of Union Park will revert from a staging area for last year's sewer separation project back into our park.

The original contractor who worked on the project has recently gone out of business. The bond holder on the project is Cramer & Associates, a major bridge contractor in Des Moines. They are now in charge of the project however they have sub-contracted the remainder of the work to another local firm

who is experienced in sewer work. The last phase of the project should be completed by the end of June, per the contract and barring major rain delays. Following completion, the sub-contractor will be required to clean up that corner of the park, removing all debris and fencing, adding 6" of topsoil and laying sod. If rain should delay the work, clean up could occur as late as August, with seeding rather than sod.

As more details become available, we will update our website and Facebook page. Stay tuned, please.



CAROUSEL SEASON BEGINS SOON!

As a THANK YOU for your neighborhood support of the Carousel and as a member of the Union Park Neighborhood Association, we are offering you a \$5 discount on a Season Pass at the Heritage Carousel in Union Park. This is an exclusive discount for Neighborhood

Association Members only. Season passes offer unlimited rides all season long! Family Pass (immediate Family members) OR Grandparent Pass (Grandparents & all Grandkids)

Regular Price - \$35

Union Park Neighborhood Association Member Discounted Rate - \$30

Passes may be purchased on-line using PayPal at www.heritagecarousel.org

OR Send check to: Heritage Carousel, P.O. Box 8352, Des Moines, Iowa 50301-8352

Indicate name to be placed on pass, whether Family/Individual or Grandparent Pass, provide contact phone number.

If you would like it sent to you by mail please include an additional 50¢ (\$30.50 total) and provide a mailing address, otherwise the pass will be ready for pick up at the Carousel. OR Purchase pass at the Carousel. Your last name will be used to verify your affiliation with the Neighborhood Association and discount will be applied.

For more information go to www.heritagecarousel.org or call 323-8200.

2012 HOURS:

May 12 & 13 May 19 & 20 - 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Regular Season Hours: May 26 - August 21 - Tues - Thurs. Noon - 7 p.m.; Fri. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Open Mondays for holidays, rentals & events. Open weekends through September 16 (weekends may be extended - see website for update).

For Fall hours call 323-8200 or go to www.heritagecarousel.org

New! - FUNdraising at the Carousel

Easy No-Risk Unlimited Rides. 100% Guaranteed Fun! Available to Schools & Non-Profits. March thru November. For more info: www.heritagecarousel.org/fundraising.html

Rent the Carousel - for birthdays, reunions, church or school outings, company picnics! Private and public hour unlimited ride options available! Something for every budget.

Party boxes available - games, gift bags & more!

Keep Up With the Carousel - to learn about special events, discount ride days, contests & more, sign up for e-messages: www.heritagecarousel.org/updates_form.html

City Trims Trees on Thompson Avenue

In balmy February Public Works employees undertook a two week tree trimming project in the 1400 - 1500 blocks of Thompson Avenue. The stately sycamores were in need of a thorough 'haircut' by trained staff, cutting out dead limbs and low hanging branches. The weather cooperated, allowing the bucket lift operator to reach high into

the towering 80-plus year old trees to carefully do his work. The rest of the crew on the ground were busy raking and feeding limbs into the heavy duty shredder / chopper. Neighbors talked with the crew about limbs overarching their yards, so that everyone's input made for job satisfaction!

Once the street sweeper was finished, Thompson Avenue looked well kept and inviting - a true gem on Des Moines' east side.

Our thanks to Public Works staff for a job very well done!

New HUD grant to Polk County

Polk County was recently awarded a \$2,475,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address lead-based paint hazards in Polk County and Dallas County. Funding is also available to address additional indoor health hazards like mold, radon and pests in some of the homes with lead hazards. These funds will leverage over \$2 million in additional local funds to allow Polk County Health

Department, and their partners, to repair 142 homes in the two counties.

This is the second lead hazard control grant that has been awarded from HUD to Polk County. One hundred forty-three units (to date) have been made lead-safe through the initial grant. These units are listed in the Polk County Lead Safe Registry <http://www.metroleadsafe.org/lead-safe-registry.aspx>

Funds are available to assist homeowners whose income is less than 80% of the median family income and landlords whose tenants' incomes are less than 80% of the median family income. In addition, to be eligible a child under the age of six years old must live, or spend significant time, in the home and there must be identified lead hazards. For more information call 286-2115.

After School Program at Union Park UMC

Wednesdays are early out days for the Des Moines Public School System, but they are fun and busy days at Union Park United Methodist Church. Union Park UMC has an after school program for the neighborhood kids every Wednesday. The program started several years ago with an elementary school program, known as UP Kids. It has been expanded in recent years to include middle school kids, known as the Accidental Angels.

The church bus picks up children after school and brings them to the

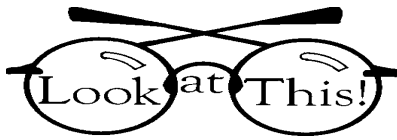
church. Volunteers are waiting to help with homework, fun and study, and an occasional field trip. When parents arrive at 5:00, the family sits down together for a hot meal before heading home. This is all without charge to the family.

The Accidental Angels tended to a garden on the property last summer. They were able to learn a bit about how food is grown and why a food is considered healthy. They were also able to donate some of their harvest to the suppers being offered.

Surplus was offered to church members for a donation. Other projects are in the works for the UP Kids and Angels.

The after school program at Union Park UMC is a great way of reaching out to our neighborhood and providing a much needed service.

This and That:



The 7th Annual Union Park Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale will be Saturday, May 26th. Traditionally it has run on the fourth Saturday in May. For lack of a volunteer to organize the garage sale, it will be running on auto-pilot. So go ahead and plan a garage sale on May 26th and clean up, clear out, and sell that stuff! If you've been thinking of having a sale, why not have it then anyway and be a part of a larger effort? If anyone would like to volunteer to organize it, please contact us at info@UnionParkDSM.com

Coming Up May 12 – “Experimental Art Night” at Whittier School. According to an article by Michael Morain in the April 29 *Des Moines Sunday Register*, the old Whittier School at 1350 E. Washington will be the site of a “one night only” experimental art installation Saturday night, May 12, from 7 p.m. until midnight. More than 15 artists submitted plans for the event, according to Michelle Holley, director of the Des Moines Social Club’s Instinct Gallery. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be collected. The exhibition is expected to occupy most of the two-story structure.

“Shred It Day” Sponsored by Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood on Saturday, May 19th from 8:00 A.M. – Noon in the parking lot at 4100 East Sheridan Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. This is a great opportunity to clean out unwanted sensitive papers in a confidential way that is friendly to the environment! It’s

free - - sponsored by Shred It USA. Members of the Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood Association will be available to help carry items from your vehicle, if needed. If you have any questions please email demlbrown@msn.com or call (515) 266-1741.

Keep the dog-gone date open! Saturday, June 30 will be the parade of pooches at Union Park United Methodist Church, 2305 E 12th St. The annual Dog Show will be held at 2:00 pm on the lawn of the church. Please feel free to bring your puppy out to the show. You will be asked a little about your dog and if he/she has performs any special tricks. After the Dog Show, ice cream and cookies will be available for all participants and prizes will be awarded.

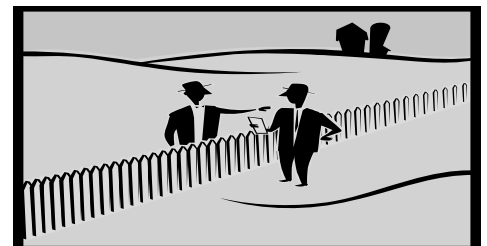
The Lawn of the Week Award program is without a coordinator. It involves scouting out exemplary examples of well kept front yards, contacting the resident, placing a sign in the yard and praising them for their efforts. In the fall the Coordinator would summarize the award program at the Fall General Meeting. Volunteers to coordinate the summer-long award programs should contact us at info@UnionParkDSM.com for information.

Mike Gaul with the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department reports that city park crews are back for the summer at the maintenance shop in Union Park. Park patrons have been very good at picking up after each other and keeping the park looking nice over the winter.

How to contact the City - If you have concerns about a problem in your neighborhood or have a ques-

tion regarding city services and you're not sure who to call, the Information Center can help. Problems are reported to the appropriate city department with a follow-up date. If you'd like a report on the resolution or status of your request, just tell them your name and email address and they will contact you. **How to Contact:** You can either call at (515) 283-4500 or email us at info@dmgov.org. **Where Located:** The Information Center is located in the main lobby at City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Hours of Operation - Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. but you can leave a voicemail message and they'll take care of reporting your concern on the next regular business day.

Broken /Missing Toter Carts – The Toter carts that we put our garbage and recyclables in are handy but sometime they get damaged or “disappear”. These carts have a 10 year warranty and will be fixed or replaced at no cost. Call the City of Des Moines Information Center at (515) 283-4500 and they will send someone out. Anyone can call in a missing or damaged Toter. **DO THIS NOW!** Make a note of the numbers on the front of your Toter carts. When your Toter cart comes up missing, the police will want those numbers so you can file a stolen property report. It also makes it easier for the City to replace your cart.



Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE
Spring General Meeting
May 22 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.

Beginning January 1, 2012 newsletters will be emailed to members

I want to have my newsletter e-mailed to the e-mail address above.

I do not have an e-mail address. Please send my newsletter to my home.

Please send me information about _____