

UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.unionparkdsm.com

Volume 12 Issue 1

February 2012

UPNA Named “Neighborhood Group of the Year”

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Each fall, the East Des Moines Chamber hosts the Celebration of Progress to showcase new and upcoming commercial developments on the East Side, to celebrate the success of Chamber member businesses, and to raise funds for annual scholarships given to East High, North High and Grand View University students.

The 2011 event was held Wednesday evening, October 19, at Valley View Village. The community spirit in East Des Moines was evident as the Chamber recognized the outstanding contributions of its volunteers and neighborhoods. East Des Moines Chamber president Diane Johnson Schaefer was the enthusiastic M.C. for the program.

The Union Park Neighborhood Association was named “Neighborhood Group of the Year” by the East Des Moines Chamber. Chair Marsha Steele and Correspondence Secretary Carolyn Rogers accepted the award on behalf of UPNA, and Marsha conveyed the Association’s thanks to everyone in attendance.

Principals Steve Johns from East High School and Matt Smith from North High School, along with Bill Burma, Vice-President of advancement at Grand View University, each expressed heartfelt appreciation for the \$1,000 scholarship donations from the Chamber given to each school.

Bill Eisenlauer, a well-known east-side real estate agent, was named 2011 Volunteer of the Year.

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

Membership Dues

A reminder to everyone about the Annual Dues. Membership dues are now due the first of the year at **January**.

Dues are on a calendar basis. Dues are \$10 for individual membership, or \$25 if you want to be a Supporter and \$30 for a Business Membership. If you have any questions about your Dues, please feel free to contact Paul Cole—Membership Chair. A membership renewal form is on the back of this newsletter.

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

Snow Priority Streets

In 2010, Union Park was one of 16 neighborhood associations accepted into the Des Moines Public Work's "Snow Priority Streets" program. Signs were posted throughout the neighborhood designating the streets as "Snow Priority Streets". Under the program, the Snow Routes have the first priority for snow removal and treatment, and after that, the neighborhoods that are designated as "Snow Priority Streets" are next. Residents no longer have to wait until 4 inches of snow has fallen to have the streets cleared as in years past. Snow Priority Streets get plowed after every snowfall of an inch or more which results in a better job of snow removal to allow the sun and chemicals to do their job to make travel safer.

The Public Works Department will use

their fleet of "wing plows" to make two passes down a street instead of four. Because the wing plows are so big, they cannot be efficiently used on residential streets 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@dmgov.org). 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 Snow Ordinance has enjoyed widespread support from the 16 neighborhoods that participated in the program in 2011.

Twenty one (out of 58) neighborhoods now participate in the Snow Priority Streets program. The program will be offered to more neighborhoods in 2012.

Jazz in July in Union Park

Union Park Neighborhood Association will host Jazz in July in Union Park on Sunday afternoon, July 8th from 2 - 4pm. Come hear live jazz under the shade trees near the East Shelter, located just west of Thompson Avenue and East 9th.

We will be seeking corporate sponsorship and we will announce the band that will be providing the entertainment. Typically, Union Park Neighborhood Association provides treats during the concert and we plan to have art exhibits and other exciting things going on dur-

ing the concert. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, the kids and dogs for a lovely afternoon in our beautiful park.

National BIKE PED

The Des Moines Parks Department needs volunteers to participate in a National BIKE PED survey on May 15, 16, 17 and 19th and then September 11, 12, 13 and 15. The purpose of this event is to count and conduct surveys of bicyclist and pedestrian, to find out why people choose to walk or bike over drive, how far they are going, and the purpose for their trip in 26 locations throughout the City of Des Moines, with 1-2 volunteers per location.

By gathering this information the goal is to improve the quality of life in Des Moines through the increase of safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity.

This data will help understand how well facilities are meeting the needs of residents. It will also help with grant applications for funding new trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes. Volunteers must be 18 years or older or have a participating vol-

unteering adult with them and have good customer service skills when dealing with the public, volunteers and staff. Volunteers will attend a training session.

For information:

Please visit website www.dmparks.org

Follow on Facebook [facebook.com/desmoinespark](https://www.facebook.com/desmoinespark)

Follow on Twitter [@desmoinespark](https://twitter.com/desmoinespark)

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!

SCRUB DAYS

The Public Works Department, in cooperation with the Des Moines Neighbors and the Neighborhood Revitalization Board, has scheduled SCRUB days (Spring Cleanup to Remove Urban Blight). Continued will be 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. 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>. No shredders for personal documents have been scheduled this year.

Scrub Guidelines:

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

MWA’s Metro Transfer Station and the Metro Compost Center: 7 AM to 2 PM. Note: Metro Waste Authority’s Metro Transfer Station and the Metro Compost Center are open to the public ONLY on Saturday SCRUB day events. See dates below.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEGA SITES: SCRUB day events in four Mega-Sites, located in four quadrants of the City, will be announced on the city website.

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. and this year e-waste such as computers.

HAZARDOUSE MATERIALS/WASTE: Metro Waste Authority’s Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste will have a trailer at the Metro Transfer Station and at neighborhood Mega-Sites. There are certain things they will and will not accept. For a complete list, go to http://www.mwatoday.com/residential/hazardous_waste.aspx or call 967-5512 to find out how to dispose of these items.

BICYCLES: Des Moines Bicycle Collective, a group that collects donated bicycles and refurbishes them to give to those in need will be on site to accept bikes that people want to throw away.

YARD WASTE: All yard waste must be taken to the MWA Metro Compost Center at 1601 Harriett ST. No yard waste accepted at neighborhood MEGA-SCRUB sites or at the Metro Transfer Station. Acceptable yard waste includes brush, tree limbs 24” diameter or less, maximum length 10 feet, prunings, loose leaves, loose grass clippings.

Dates:

March 17 April 21 May 19 June 16 July 21 August 18
September 15 October 20 November 17

Boards and Commission Vacancies

Marty Mauk, President of Des Moines Neighbors did some research and found that four of the seven members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment have not been reappointed when their term was up. Some members of the board have been expired since 2006. The Neighborhood Revitalization Board has 12 of the 16 members with expired terms. This is clearly against the city ordinance. It raises questions about the validity of

the board’s decisions. It makes the board person whose term has expired less independent and more beholden to the Council person’s wishes. These positions are filled by members of the City Council. Rather than seeking out new members of these boards, they keep re-appointing, even though there are term limits on these positions. Although our Council members may complain that they can’t find new people for these po-

sitions, it is evident that they have not made any real efforts to find qualified people. Marty suggested that the Council needs to look to the people who attend Des Moines Neighbors as a pool of candidates for these positions. Information is available on these vacancies on the City website, or contact your City Council person to express interest.

DMPD Meets With NBSD Neighborhoods

The annual meeting of neighborhoods participating in the Neighborhood Based Service Delivery (NBSD) program took place November 10 at the Des Moines Police Academy. Representatives from almost all neighborhood associations were in attendance, including Carolyn Rogers, UPNA Correspondence Secretary, who attended on behalf of the Association.

This event provides an opportunity for key staff at the Des Moines Police Department (DMPD) to introduce themselves and update neighborhood representatives on programs and issues of interest. Neighborhood attendees also had an opportunity to share their concerns.

Sgt. Larina Blad, former Union Park/Oak Park/Highland Park NBSD officer, talked about the programs she has spearheaded to help area youth, including the Junior Police Explorer Program. This program targets middle-school children, introducing them to various police units and functions. Police officers become mentors and friends to the young participants. Other youth programs included Youth in the Parks, a five-day program to help clean up Des Moines parks, and opportunities to help those less fortunate, such as the homeless. The goal of these efforts is to keep kids actively engaged and off the streets.

In their opening remarks, Chief Judy Bradshaw and Maj. Stephen Waymire (who oversees Patrol) discussed the department's successes in reducing juvenile crime, partnering with faith-based leaders in the Community Ambassador Program (CAP), and controlling problems at the State Fair. Concerns about budget cuts were expressed throughout the meeting. Chief Bradshaw emphasized the importance of contacting elected officials with concerns – that citizen input is listened to. A packet was handed out showing budget and personnel changes in the DMPD 2008 – 2011.

DMPD receives approximately 250,000 calls for service per year. Detectives currently are following up on about 50,000 cases.

Maj. Dana Wingert presented the Pawn Automated System that has resulted in more than four times the amount of stolen goods being recovered. Licensed pawn shop owners now enter information electronically rather than filling out hand-written sheets.

Other programs of interest included the Crime Free Multi-Housing program, which now includes single rental houses and duplexes, and the Drug Disposal program for prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

The presenters continually emphasized the importance of communication and trust between neighbors and the DMPD. There are 58 recognized neighborhoods, 29 of which are covered “officially” by NBSD officers. Citizens are encouraged to contact their NBSD officers directly.

Each NBSD officer discussed criminal activity in his/her neighborhoods and noted any improvements or trends. Senior Police Officer Scott Baker, the newly-named NBSD officer for the Union/Oak/Highland Parks area, shared the following summary of offenses reported in the Union Park Neighborhood from Sept. 2010 – Oct. 2011: aggravated assault, 16; burglary, 91; larceny/theft offenses, 136; motor vehicle theft, 19; vandalism, 375.

The NBSD program was praised highly by all neighborhood leaders in attendance.

City Sidewalk Ordinance

To help ensure that sidewalks are safe during the winter, City ordinance requires residents to remove snow and ice from sidewalks within 48 hours following the end of the snowfall. Property owners who do not comply are subject to a civil citation. A helpful hint for residents on snow routes – clear your sidewalk after the snowplows have finished

plowing to the curb. When you remove snow from your driveway or sidewalk, please remember that City ordinance prohibits placing snow on any public street, sidewalk, or right-of-way. Equipment operators often work 12 or more hours in a shift, and appreciate courteous and friendly drivers and pedestrians. Please help them to help you.

When shoveling out the mouth of your driveway, throw the snow to the right or left, but **NOT** in the street.

Residents who wish to report sidewalks not cleared of snow and ice accumulations may call 283-4950 and report the address of the sidewalk. You are not asked to identify yourself.

THE HERITAGE CAROUSEL

DES MOINES

For the first time ever, the Heritage Carousel of Des Moines, located in Union Park opened for January riders. Over 1000 free rides were given to hundreds of Carousel lovers during the 2 hours the Carousel opened on Saturday, January 7th! Between the sunshine and sunshiny smiles one might have believed it was a very busy day in June! A big thanks to all who came out to visit the Carousel animals and interrupt their hibernation to make their typically long winter just a little bit shorter. For photos from the day go to http://heritagecarousel.org/photos_jan2012_open.html

Think about adopting an animal for the 2012 season!

It includes naming rights for the year, a season pass and a t-shirt! Your message will hang above your animal and be on the website too!

Individual or family - \$100 or more donation.

Business - \$200 or more donation.

Carousel Cover Kid Contest – Be a Carousel Kid on the cover of Kid’s Directory (a free family oriented tabloid) for the month of May! To enter, pre-purchase a season pass, adopt an animal or put a down payment on a rental for this summer! More details will be out soon.

First Rider of the Year Contest – A free contest for all kids, age 12 or younger, to enter. Entries will be accepted in late March – watch for details! Thirty names will be drawn to ride the first official ride of the season on Saturday, May 12th. One of those 30 will be selected to pick their favorite animal to ride and receive a Heritage Carousel t-shirt!

Countdown to Carousel Season!

Opening Weekend – May 12th & 13th!

Carousel Cover Kid Contest - Sign up now through March 19th!

Enter your favorite Carousel Kids to be our Carousel Cover Kid!

One child will be featured on the cover of the May issue of “Kid’s Directory” publication & on the Carousel web site home page this season!

Entries are accepted with each pre-paid season pass, deposit for a rental or animal adoption!

“**First Rider of the Year**” Contest! Free & Fun – sign up available in April.

Reserve the Carousel for your Birthday Parties & Group Gatherings Now!

Private and Open Hour rentals allow unlimited rides and ride options for a small gathering or large groups – all providing unlimited rides! The Carousel has been a fun meeting place for birthday parties, weddings and receptions, engagement and graduation photos, family reunions, school outings and company picnics.

Only 4 Animals Left to Adopt!

Every animal wants a name this year! Support the Carousel – Name your favorite animal! Along with each adoption comes naming rights for the season, the name and your message will hang above your animal and be displayed on the web site, you receive a Heritage Carousel t-shirt of your choice, a season pass and a 10% discount on rentals or token purchases. Both individual/family adoptions and business adoptions are available. A great way to show your support & a great way to promote your business!



Free Tax Help

Free! Tax preparation - If you earned \$50,000 or less in 2011, you can receive FREE tax preparation. You also may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This is your money to keep and save. Call 2-1-1 for more information. 2-1-1 is free and available 24/7.

You may qualify if you made \$50,000 or less in 2011.

What to Bring:

Proof of identification

Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration

Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return

Current year's tax package if you received one

Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers

Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)

A copy of last year's Federal and State returns

Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit

Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)

To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

Where to Go:

Here are some of the sites in Des Moines. *This list is subject to change. Please call 2-1-1 for the most current information.*

DES MOINES - Park Fair Mall at 100 East Euclid, Lower Level

(Des Moines Housing office)

Starts March 1st: Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-3:30: Open March and April only

United Way of Central Iowa at 1111 9th St.

Starts January 23rd

Hours: Mondays 5-7:30 p.m., Tuesdays 9-1:30,

Wednesdays 5-7:30 p.m., Fridays 9-1:30 and Saturdays 9-4:30

ITINS and Spanish-language assistance available

Saturdays from 9-2

Des Moines VITA SUPER-SITE - Park Fair Mall at 100 East Euclid Ave, Suite 107

Starts February 1st

Hours: Mondays 9-1:30, Tuesdays 5-7:30 p.m.,

Wednesdays 9-1:30, Thursdays 5-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9-4:30 February only. Closed February 11th thru the 14th

DMACC - Urban and Ankeny Campus

By appointment only. Call 2-1-1 for location information and to schedule an appointment.

Refund:

If you made \$50,000 or less, you may be eligible for....

\$5,666: Maximum amount, with three or more qualifying children

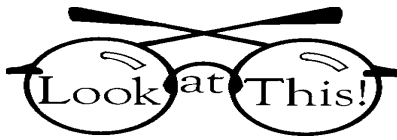
\$5,036: Maximum amount, with two qualifying children.

\$3,050: Maximum amount, with one qualifying child.

\$457: Maximum amount, with no children.

\$1,491: The average refund amount in 2011!

This and That:



Recently there was an article in the January 25th Juice, a magazine published by the Des Moines Register, about the Oldest Bar in Des Moines. The research and article was done by our own resident, Joe Lawler. Five bars in Des Moines, including the Hull Avenue Tavern (834 Hull Ave) claim they are the oldest, but it seems Prohibition influenced those time lines. Prohibition was repealed in 1933. The Hull Avenue Tavern claims to have the same liquor license since 1933.

In a separate article in the January 25th Juice, Joe Lawler tracked down our Public Works Director, Bill Stowe to his favorite watering hole for a chat. If you happen to be at the Capital Pub and Hot Dog Co., buy the man a drink. He deserves a toast! Please go to the Juice website at www.dmjuice.com and read the articles. Good job, Joe!

Marilyn Fors-Roby, a long time Union Park resident and member, has moved outside of the area. Marilyn was one of the founders of UPNA and did many activities behind the scenes, like Home Tours, Lawn of the Week, The 50 year and Star Awards, to name a few. We all want to thank Marilyn for her service to the community.

Lock Your Cars! Union Park Neighborhood residents are urged to keep their cars and trucks locked at all times when parked on a street or in a driveway. Cases have been reported recently of items being pilfered from unlocked vehicles: cell phones, electronic devices, CDs, loose change, etc. It also is prudent to pick up delivered mail and packages as soon as possible, to help deter possible theft.

The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department recognized the volunteer efforts from the past year at an awards

recognition ceremony at City Hall last month. Among the six categories was the Corporate Volunteer of the Year. Among the company's efforts last year, Wells Fargo supported the planting of flowers at Union Park in 2011. The Des Moines volunteer award program was established in 2009 to recognize volunteers for their commitment and service to the Parks and Recreation Department.

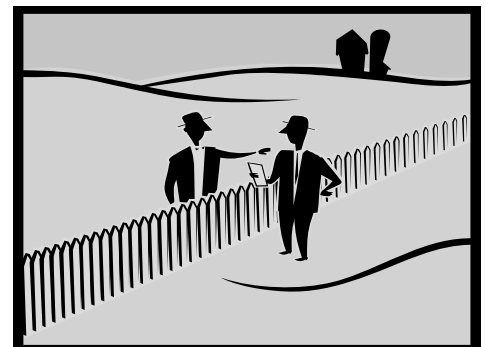
Free Movies in the Park – In the past, the Park and Recreation Department hosted free outdoor movies in Union Park on Saturday nights in September. The Steering Committee was informed by Park and Recreation that, due to budget cuts they would not longer do that. If we wanted to host a free movie (note singular) in Union Park in 2012, we would need to find a person to coordinate the event and pay a “donation” of \$300. We succeeded in finding a willing coordinator and talked Parks & Rec. into granting us two movies. We will announce more information when we know it. But it looks like we will have two movies in August or September.

Dog and Cat licenses - Wednesday, March 31 is the deadline to purchase your City of Des Moines dog and cat licenses without a penalty. City ordinance requires all dogs and cats six months and older to have a license. The cost is \$15 for dogs and cats that are spayed or neutered, and \$35 for dogs and cats that are not spayed or neutered. Special rates are available for citizens over 65 years of age. The late fee is \$50 for each pet license. Applications are available on the city website at www.dmgov.org. Applications must be postmarked on March 31 or earlier to avoid the penalty. The City Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily, and will be open late, until 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 31st to accept applications. The City Clerk's Office/ City Hall address is 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Call the Clerk's Office at 283-4209 for more information.

Grand View University was recognized with one of three Post-Secondary Vision Awards at the Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund benefit banquet January 19 at Drake University. The acknowledgment is recognition for Grand View taking leadership in supporting the scholarship fund and for being a partner to secure scholarships for minority students in Iowa.

The Union Park Neighborhood Steering Committee will not sell calendars this year. The River View themed calendars sold well, but we ran out of material. In 2011, the calendars featured old post cards of Union Park and other Des Moines parks, but they did not sell well. All of our old calendars have sold out and we have no more in stock.

Do you have a bicycle you want to get rid of? Donate it and receive a receipt for a tax deduction. The Des Moines Bicycle Collective is a group that collects donated bicycles and refurbishes them to give to those in need or to sell to those who can afford it. Last year they gave 125 bikes away. Contact www.dsmbikecollective.org or 617 Grand Avenue, (across from Ruan Center), Des Moines, IA 50309, Phone (515) 288-8022.



Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402



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 _____