

UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.unionparkdsm.com

Volume 14 Issue 2

October 2014

Fall General Meeting

Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 PM

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Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House in Birdland Park 2100 Saylor Road

The UPNA Fall General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House in Birdland Park. Our guest speaker will be Bill Kooker, one of the foremost experts on Riverview Amusement Park and all of its 63 year history. He will give a presentation about the History of Riverview Amusement Park. He is the 3rd generation of his family to manage Riverview Amusement Park in Des Moines. Bill Kooker is also the web master of the official Riverview Park, Des Moines web page.

Here is his Riverview website: <http://www.riverviewparkdsm.com/>. He also has a Riverview Facebook page.

Also on the agenda is Polk County Supervisor, Tom Hockensmith, an update on the year's accomplishments, Lawn of the Week Awards, a briefing on the next phase of the "Pillar Project" (a sidewalk and benches that will lead into the park from the steps on East 9th across from Mattern Avenue) and election of officers. We will have UPNA T-shirts and 2015 calendars available for sale. Each person will receive a free koozie and as always, we will have cookies.

The Ding Darling Shelter in Birdland Park is located near Guthrie and Saylor Road at 2100 Saylor Road. There is plenty of parking. For information about the Ding Darling Shelter go to <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/Parks/Pages/Birdland.aspx>

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

Why “Beggar’s Night”?

“Beggar’s Night” in Des Moines is traditionally October 30th between 6 to 8 PM on the night before Halloween night. And, unlike everywhere else, the little goblins will tell bad jokes to earn their treats.

Local history has it that this tradition started in the 1930’s. Halloween had turned into a night of mischief such as soaping windows, ringing door bells, egging, turning over outhouses and dumping refuse in streets. But some youngsters tried to out-do what they had done the year before to include setting fires, theft and destruction of property. The chaos was getting out of hand and this became a huge problem for the police and a worry for all homeowners. Halloween had become more about thugs and vandalism than about costumes and candy.

The City’s Director of Recreation at that time was determined to turn that around and started a campaign to make Halloween into a night of innocent fun. The first thing was to proclaim “Beggar’s Night” on the night before Halloween and make the kids work for their treats. Apparently it took some time and the backing of community groups and members of law enforcement but she was successful. During World War II, the appeal to behave oneself on Beggar Night turned patriotic and children were admonished not to help the enemy by wasting resources and acting like saboteurs. “Beggars Night” is unique to Des Moines and it is not done like this anywhere else.

Welcome Beggar’s to your home by turning on your exterior lights.

Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.

Candy should be in original wrappers, if you choose to hand out candy.

Non-food items such as pencils, novelty pens or change are acceptable.

Homemade goodies and fruit is suspected by parents and often tossed.

Require the little Beggar’s perform for their treats, but above all, have fun with it.

2014 Lawn of the Week Awards

We thank Tom McDermot and Yvonne McClure for coordinating the Lawn of the Week Award (LOWA) again in 2014! Each week during the summer, they scout the neighborhood looking for lawns that deserved the honor of the green and white signs that proclaims the “Union Park Neighborhood Lawn of the Week”.

Congratulations to the 9 recipients of the 2014 Lawn of the Week Awards whose outstanding front yards exemplified neatness, good landscape design and consistent quality of yard maintenance. This is a very important award and speaks well for your neighbors who receive this honor:

Bernice Bentz - 2805 E 13th

Clark Connell - 701 Morton

Jerry and Julie Bates - 1521 Guthrie

Eric Link - 1209 Morton

Joseph Seaman - 2405 Glenbrook Dr

Kevin Fangman - 909 Thompson Ave

Sandra Adams - 2220 York

Michael Schultz - 507 E Sheridan Ave

Unity Point Health - 2301 E 14th

We hope that all of the winners will attend the 2014 Fall General Meeting so that we may congratulate them in person. The winners will receive an award certificate and a gift certificate to Goode’s Greenhouse. Those of us who have been in their shoes know how much work it is to keep the Lawn of the Week Award going and making it a success!

The UPNA Steering Committee has sponsored the Lawn of the Week Award since 1992.



UPNA

Meeting Invitation

The Union Park Neighborhood Association holds a Spring and Fall General Meeting. We also have bi-monthly steering committee meetings that are held the 2nd Tuesday of odd months (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept. & Nov.) 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!



Thanks to generous support from donors to Transformations: A Campaign For Grand View University, the building – an expansion and renovation of the GV Student Center -- will be completed in time for the start of the 2015 fall semester. Much of the building project will be funded by private gifts to the University.

The new Student Center will be 60,709 square feet, including 20,654 square feet of renovation to the existing student center and 40,055 square feet for a new two-story addition that will include a 156 foot skywalk over East 14th Street (Highway 69) connecting the Student Center to the Rasmussen Center for Community Advancement Professions. This skywalk will be the longest freestanding skywalk in the city of Des Moines.

The Student Center is the hub of student experience beyond the classroom. It houses Student Life offices, including student government, clubs and organizations, counseling services, multicultural programs, the Career Center, academic advising, and the Academic Enrichment Center. The first floor also will house offices and workspaces for the speech and theatre program and the Viking Theatre, as well as the classrooms, studios and offices of the Grand View Communication department, in addition to student lounges and recreation areas. The second floor of the new Student Center will be devoted to dining for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, with a lounge area adjacent to the skywalk.



The unique “Hjemad” sculpture by Mark Lamar (Class of 1980) which was placed in front of the former Student Center in 1996 was carefully removed for restoration and will be re-dedicated in another location on campus. In late November 2013, three of the uprights were damaged when a car veered from NE 14th Street and crashed into it. The metal sculpture is a stylized representation of the boats that Danish immigrants sailed in to America. It stands in a bed of river rock, depicting the ocean. It is dearly loved by many and we look forward to seeing it again on the Gvu campus in the future.

Beggar's Night 2014 in Des Moines

Thursday, Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m.

Here are some of the events we are aware of:



Union Park United Methodist Church Safe Harvest Party!!

Come have a safe, fun, good time on Oct. 30th from 6-8 pm. Snacks, drinks, games, prizes and lots of fun! Please stop by. The Union Park United Methodist Church is located at 2305 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50316. For more information call 515-262-2875.



Union Park Health Services Staff and Residents are having a "Trick or Treating Extravaganza!" Come one, come all..... October 30, 2014 – Residents will be handing out candy from 6:00-7:00. Try their special "Witches Brew" if you dare! Union Park Health Services is located at 2401 E. 8th Street in Des Moines



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2600 E. Euclid Ave, Des Moines, on Friday, October 31, from 6-8 p.m., will hold a Trunk or Treat Halloween Extravaganza. A safe and fun party for the whole family, featuring trick or treating in the parking lot and fun activities inside! Check out Halloween crafts, creepy critters, balloon animals, bake sale, and more! Free and all are welcome. For more information, visit www.princeofpeacedsm.org.

MORE EVENTS:

Night Eyes - Iowa's favorite merry not scary event, October 16- 19 and October 23-26th at Blank Park Zoo. This year's 24th annual event is sure to continue the tradition as the sweetest Halloween fun in Central Iowa! You can buy your advance tickets at BlankParkZoo.com

Sleepy Hollow's 10-attraction Scream Park opens Oct. 10 for 12 nights through Nov. 1. It opens each evening at 7 p.m. and promises new thrills and chills. "Our goal is to always have something new, whether it's a brand new attraction or changes to an existing one, and this year is no exception," said owner Rick Flatt.

Scare Us Hill: Trick-Or-Treat at Terrace Hill: Sunday, October 26 from 4-7 p.m. at Terrace Hill 2300 Grand Ave Des Moines. This one-of-a-kind family event features hundreds of carved pumpkins, costumed participants and a variety of spooky activities including a scavenger hunt through the mansion! This year's theme will be based on the wizardly world of Harry Potter. The fun starts at 4:00 p.m. and continue past dark. Kids ages 3 and under are free, 4+ are \$3 and adults accompanying are \$5. You may purchase your tickets via telephone at (515) 281-7205 or at the Carriage House check-in the day of the event. Costumes are encouraged but not required to participate.

Cutting of Tree Limbs

On several occasions this year, UPNA has been asked for advice about how to handle trees that share property boundaries or reach over property lines. Neither UPNA nor the City gets involved in disputes between neighbors over trimming trees. It is considered a civil matter between two neighbors. We recommend neighbors talk to each other and work things out and come to a mutual agreement on how to handle situations rather than involve the legal system. However we have obtained a cheat sheet that may be useful as a guide.

Cutting of Tree Limbs:

The Law

Neighbors have the legal right to trim any hanging tree limb that crosses over their property line. However, neighbors may only cut the limb back to the property line and may not enter their neighbor's property for further cutting without permission.

Act of God

If one neighbor complains to the other that a tree limb is hanging over the property line and the tree-owning neighbor refuses to trim it, that neighbor can be held liable if the limb falls and causes property damage. However, if a tree limb crosses the property line during a natural disaster, such as a storm, and causes damage, the tree-owning neighbor will not be held liable. This is known as an Act of God.

Penalties

In the event that one neighbor does trim limbs that hang over her property line and, as a result, causes significant damage to the tree's health, the tree-owning neighbor may sue for damages. Courts may issue a settlement for up to three times the value of the tree. If the tree is historical or an ornamental tree, the settlement can be even higher.

Before any neighbor opts to trim any portion of a tree, he should first find out who legally owns the tree. Trees that rest on the boundary line between two properties are known as "boundary trees." Both neighbors have equal responsibility of maintaining this type of tree. If the majority of the trunk rests on one side of the property line, that neighbor has sole ownership.

Note that yes you can trim limbs that are on your side of the property line; but it is your responsibility to pay to have the limb waste removed, you cannot just throw them over the property line. Throwing the waste over the property line will allow your neighbor sue for damages.

With this information if you do not see a solution, contact you lawyer.

DSM PARKS AND REC - LAUNCHES ONLINE CEMETERY DATABASE

The new online search tool from Des Moines Parks and Recreation will provide free, instant access to over 170,000 burial records from the seven Des Moines Municipal Cemeteries:

Glendale
Woodland and St. Ambrose
Laurel Hill
Oak Grove
Sims
Elm Grove

User search terms can include the cemetery name, partial first and last names, and interment (burial) date range, sorting through records dating back to 1848. Visit <http://cemeterysearch.dmgov.org/> to start a search.

“This new function will allow anyone, anywhere to search our cemeteries records 24/7,” said Benjamin R, Page, Director, Parks and Recreation. “The online database will be an enhancement

to the exceptional customer service our department provides.”

For sales or additional information about these locations, contact the Des Moines Municipal Cemetery Customer Service and Sales Office at 515-248-6320 or cem@dmgov.org.

Another Great Year at Rendezvous on Riverview



ROR ended the 2014 on a high note with “The Whole Damn Band”, a Country/Rock good time music group, featuring local music talent for every age. This group wrapped

up the free summer concerts at Rendezvous on Riverview on Friday, August 1st at Rendezvous on Riverview on the lot at 6th & Boston in Des Moines, just a few blocks north of North High School. During June and July, live music has been featured from some of Central Iowa's best bands. Lots of food and beverage options including beer, soft drinks, walking-

tacos, hot-dog and much more have been available. People came to listen to music and have a great time. Be sure to come back again next year to join your neighbors and friends at Rendezvous on Riverview! Go here for all the great information: <http://www.rordsm.com/>

Are You Ready?

Emergencies are part of life. Fire, police and emergency medical services may be delayed in an emergency or unable to respond. Tornadoes, flooding, winter storms or an act of terrorism, emergencies can occur quickly and without warning. Although we cannot prevent emergencies, we can prepare for them.

There are three simple steps you can take:

Build a kit. Your emergency supply kit should have everything you need to sustain you and your family for 3-5 days.

Make a plan. Knowing what to do in the event of an emergency is key. Make sure everyone in your family knows what to do.

Be Aware. Learn about the hazards that can affect your community, and learn how to obtain information about current weather and road conditions. Click one of the links to the left to find out more about specific hazards that affect Iowa.

<http://www.beready.iowa.gov/>

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/media/20855/Brochure.pdf>

Mid-American Energy - Appliance Rebate and Recycling Program

Mid American Energy will rebate \$50 for an ENERGY STAR rated refrigerator or freezer. The rebate for a ENERGY STAR rated clothes washer is \$150.

If you have a WORKING refrigerator, freezer or room air conditioner that you want to get rid of, Mid-American will pick up and dispose of the appliance (at

no cost to you) and send you \$50 for a qualifying refrigerator or freezer or \$25 for a qualifying room air conditioner.

The rebate and recycling program is for Mid-American Energy customers in Iowa.

Schedule a pickup by calling 800-621-2757 or registering at www.jacoinc.net. Call center hours are Monday through

Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more detailed information go to: http://www.midamericanenergy.com/ce/ia_res_appliances.aspx

Keeping Track of Your City Council (and more)

The latest Des Moines City Council Meeting agendas and minutes (as well as other boards and commissions) are posted on the City Website. Go here to see what is coming up at Council Meetings and workshops: <http://www.dmgov.org/Government/CityCouncil/Pages/Meetings.aspx>

Also, now you can watch City Council Meetings (and view a wealth of other information) on the internet if you do not have access to cable Channel 7. The

new LIVE Stream of DMTV can be viewed on smart phones, tablets and computers any time. You will find the link to the live stream by going directly to dmtv-live.dmgov.org. DMTV 7 is also available from the home page www.dmgov.org, scroll down to the DMTV-7 icon, then click on the “DMTV Live link.

DMTV is available in SD and HD on the Mediacom Cable lineup in the basic tier of service on channels 7.1 and 7.2

depending on the type of TV (box or flat screen) and the type of service a customer has with Mediacom. Some viewers may have to rescan their channels to pick up 7.1 and 7.2. (It is not available with Basic Cable or over the air). Public meetings continue to be available on the City of Des Moines' YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CityOfDesMoinesIowa>.

For more information contact the City of Des Moines Public Information Office at (515) 283-4795.

Birdland Redevelopment Plan

The Birdland Redevelopment Plan is in the final stages. In 2008 an epic flood impacted a part of the Union Park Neighborhood Association area called Birdland. It is home to residential, commercial, industrial and recreational interests. After the 2008 flood, many homes in the Birdland area were bought out and removed and many businesses struggled to come back again. UPNA and others in the Parks Area pressed the Corps of Engineers hard to have the levee raised and strengthened. We were successful and now a new levee and floodgate protect the Birdland area. Now that the area is protected, the City of Des Moines, The Parks Area Foundation and citizens in Birdland area have come together to plan for the redevelopment of the area.

The Planning Committee was formed early this summer to prepare a redevelopment plan for the Birdland Area in Des Moines, Iowa. Jack Daugherty represented the UPNA Steering Committee on the Planning Committee. The boundaries of the Birdland Area are area bounded by the Levee on the south, Saylor Road on East, Sheridan on north, and Second Avenue on west.

The goal and the challenge of the planning committee was to develop a community consensus on the outcomes that are most desirable and feasible, and create a vision and plan to be used by developers and decision-makers as a guide for future development and redevelopment of the Birdland Area.

During the Planning Process, an Area Specific Plan was developed that focused on what land uses are most appropriate – residential, commercial, industrial, mixed use, open space, etc.; recommendations on design and building forms that will compliment the surrounding neighborhood; how these uses and design forms best transition to the surrounding uses; analysis of existing infrastructure conditions; and recommendations for infrastructure upgrades necessary to support future development.

The City of Des Moines City Council and Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to complete this redevelopment plan. The City of Des Moines is partnered with the Parks Area Foundation and other area

neighborhood associations to undertake this important planning effort for the Birdland Area.

The fifth planning meeting was on September 23rd. On October 7th, the second public meeting for the Birdland Plan was held at the Ding Darling Shelter at Birdland Park. The draft plan was presented and final input was taken at this meeting. The next step is to finalize the plan and begin the approval process. On November 4th, the Parks Area foundation will review the final plan at a special meeting. Then they will forward it to UPNA for review so we can approve or comment on it at our November 11th meeting. After that, it goes to the Urban Design Review Board, P&Z and finally to City Council for adoption as an amendment to the Des Moines' 2020 Community Character Plan.

Here is a link to the website set up for the Birdland Redevelopment: <http://dsmbirdland.com/>.

This and That:

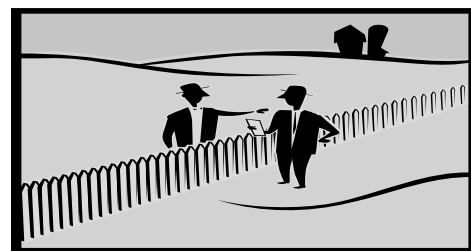
October 23: The Greater Des Moines Garden Club would like to invite you and members of your neighborhood association to a program on the Emerald Ash Borer by David Jahn, Municipal Arborist for Des Moines. Thursday, October 23, 2014, 1:00 PM Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westminster Hall. Corner of Beaver and Franklin in Des Moines. Use the Franklin Ave. entrance: this meeting is free and open to the public. If you have questions, contact Jean Schweizer at 254-1795.

November 2: The end of daylight savings time! Set your clocks back an hour and sleep in.

November 8 & 9: HARVEST CONCERTS - All Free and Open to the Public. Over 100 singers & musicians will perform a variety of upbeat and meaningful songs. Saturday, November 8, 7:00 PM – at Union Park United Methodist Church. Sunday, November 9, 2:00 PM – at First Christian Church. Both Harvest Concerts will be performed by the community choirs: We Got Male & We Got Female. These concerts raise money for the DMARC Food Pantry - 100% is used to purchase food. Please come and invite your friends and family.

November 11: Union Park Neighborhood Association Steering Committee

meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Grand View University, in the Humphrey Center, Rodholm Room. All of our meetings are open to the public. Check out the UPNA website. Announcements are posted on Face Book. We hope to see you there!



Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE

Fall General Meeting
Thursday, October 23 at 7 pm
Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House
Birdland Park 2100 Saylor Road

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 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 _____