



www.unionparkdsm.com

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Visit our website for news and information.

Spring General Meeting

Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 PM

The UPNA Spring General Meeting will be held Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House in Birdland Park.

Our first guest speaker will be Dr. Rachele Keck, President of Grand View University. She is the 14th President of the Des Moines liberal arts college and was installed last year. Dr. Kent Henning retired July 2022. For more background on Dr Keck, please see our May 2022 Newsletter, which is available in the archives on our website. Other local elected officials have been invited to bring us up to date on county, city and neighborhood issues.

The Ding Darling Shelter in Birdland Park is located near Guthrie and Saylor Road at 2100 Saylor Road.



Mark Your Calendar

Don't sit on the sidelines...Get involved!

Lawn of the Week Award 2023

The Lawn of the Week Awards program continues in 2023! The Lawn of the Week Awards program started in 1992 by the UPNA Steering Committee, to identify and honor front yards that exhibited both good landscape design and consistent quality of yard maintenance.

Yvonne and Tom McDermott are the Lawn of the Week Award Coordinators. During the summer they walk and drive through the area to identify outstanding front yards of neighbors whose lawns exemplified both neatness and beauty. As they find a “winner”, Tom and Yvonne place a green and white sign in the yard for one week to proclaim the yard as the “Union Park Neighborhood Lawn of the Week”. Sometimes the sign is left in the yard for a little bit longer if the McDermott's get busy.

Although there is not a formal process for this award, nominations are appreciated and gratefully accepted. Yvonne says that they follow up on nominations that are submitted by friends and neighbors but sometimes the owner does not respond when contacted. The owner's approval is needed before a sign can be put in the yard. Contact with the home owner will be by phone, letter or email only. Please send your suggestions for a 2022 Lawn of the Week to info@unionparkdsm.com



Save the Date: National Night Out August 7, 2023

National Night Out (NNO) will be on the first Tuesday of August in 2023. We are happy to announce that NNO for the Union Park area will once again be hosted by the Union Park United Methodist Church, 2305 East 12th Street (corner of E 12 and Guthrie St) in their parking lot on August 7th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They always do a great job and everyone is invited to enjoy food, beverages, fun, games and prizes and socializing with your neighbors. Meet city officials and representatives from the Des Moines Police and Fire Department. This event also doubles as the “Back to School Party”. Don't miss this fun event.



UPNA

Meeting Invitation

The Union Park Neighborhood Association holds a Spring and Fall General Meeting. We also have bi-monthly board/member 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!

UPNA

Membership Dues

Remember that Annual Membership Dues are 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.

CLOWNS AT THE CAROUSEL

The 19thth annual Clowns at the Carousel, held August 7, 2022 was another big success! It is always held during the International Clowns Week.

"We estimate about 1,000 children and their families attended" said Debbi Cooper (AKA Clickette), organizer of the event. Jackie Cacciatore, Director of the Heritage Carousel, said 645 rides were given this year, more than last year.

About 400 bike helmets were given away. Volunteers handed out 1880 cups of water/lemonade, 50 bottles of water and 42 bottles of Gatorade (people were thirsty). They gave out 400 bags of popcorn, and 214 pizzas were consumed. Snow Cones were popular as 800+ were given out. Fruit was a big hit as 400 apples and 400 bananas were distributed. There were inflatables, Safety Street, music, games, juggling, dancers, and stage entertainment. Ten talented clowns were on hand to make people laugh. All this was accomplished with a crew of just 27 volunteers

Thank you to the Korn Patch Klowns, their 14 sponsors and all the volunteers for this annual event. Kids have been enjoying this feature since 2003. Save the date, Sunday, August 6, 2023, for the next Clowns at the Carousel!



SCRUB—Spring Cleanup to Reduce Urban Blight

SCRUB stands for SPRING CLEANUP to REDUCE URBAN BLIGHT. It is the City's mission to enhance the City's neighborhoods by allowing residents an opportunity to remove yard waste and debris from homes and yards to reduce the blighted areas within the City.

What kind of SCRUB events does the City of Des Moines sponsor?

MEGA SCRUB: An event that is hosted by select neighborhoods within their section of the City. Any Des Moines Resident may participate.

Transfer Station SCRUB: An alternate drop-off location used for SCRUB events. The Metro Waste Transfer Station is located at 4198 Delaware Ave.

Compost Site SCRUB: A drop off site designated for yard and tree debris during SCRUB events. The Des Moines Compost Site is located at 1601 Harriett Street.

SCRUB Event Reminders Free Drop off - Delays Possible

Proof of Residency is required - Bring a photo id or current utility bill.

Before each event, please review the [SCRUB guidelines](#).

MEGA SCRUB events now offer Household Hazardous Waste Disposal. [See list of items](#). (MEGA SCRUB sites only)

SCRUB events are free to Des Moines citizens, therefore you may experience longer wait times based on participation.

Questions - If you have questions about SCRUB events, please call us at 515-283-4950.

City of Des Moines Department of Public Works 2023 SCRUB Calendar



Date	Location	Hours
5/20/2023	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
6/17/2023	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
7/15/2023	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Capitol Complex Lot #3, W. of E. 14th south of Court Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
8/19/2023	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
9/16/2023	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Bell Avenue Business Park, 1901 Bell Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
10/21/2023	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
11/18/2023	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM

HOME, Inc. (Home Opportunities Made Easy, Inc.)

HOME Inc has long been a partner with the Union Park Neighborhood Association because of the multitude of investments and services they have provided not only in our neighborhood but in the Greater Des Moines Area.

Their investment has resulted in helping clients become proud owners of these valuable homes.

Among HOME Inc's remarkable programs are their counseling and education programs that assist landlords and tenants, homebuyers and those facing homelessness. They have provided these services to approximately 175,000 people, many from the Union Park area.

Home Opportunities Made Easy, Inc. (HOME, Inc.) was founded in 1967 and is the oldest private, non-profit housing organization in Des Moines. HOME, Inc. is the only HUD certified Housing Counseling Agency in Polk County. They create opportunities for quality affordable housing, and provide both rental and home ownership counseling and education. They have built or rehabbed over 400 units. 75% of the units were purchased by low income people. Over 95% of the families that purchase these homes retain those homes long term. The majority (78%) of homes that they have completed since 1990 are still occupied by a HOME, Inc. client.

Kourtney Kirkpatrick is the Interim Executive Director. She may be contacted at:

Phone: 515-243-1277

kirkpatrick.kourtney@homeincdsm.org



Contact Des Moines City Council 2022

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UPNA Easter Egg Hunt - April 8, 2023

Union Park Neighborhood Association teamed up with the Heritage Carousel of Des Moines for the Easter Egg hunt in Union Park on April 8, 2023. Over 400 free carousel rides were enjoyed and around 8,000 eggs were hoovered up by the kids in about 4 minutes. Thanks to Polk County for sponsoring the event and thanks to "The Ed-Ster Bunny" for making an appearance.



SAVE THE DATE: Cruise to the Carousel

22ND ANNUAL CRUISE TO THE CAROUSEL CAR SHOW

Sunday, August 27, 2023

(Rain or Shine)

Heritage Carousel

UNION PARK

E 9th & Thompson
Des Moines, Iowa

Car Show Charity: Heritage Foundation

*The Cruise to the Carousel
is presented by the*



Club members
not in competition

TOP 20 IN EACH CLASS
Stock & Modified
~ Participant Vote ~

10 SPECIAL AWARDS
Hood and trunk must be
open to be judged
Special Low Rider Award!

STOCK CLASS
No More Than 3 Bolt-On
Modifications
(Mag wheels allowed as
one modification)



22nd Year of Support
by ROLLIN RELICS
AND 25th Anniversary of
The Heritage Carousel





Registration:
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Voting:
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Awards:
2:30 p.m.

Show Registration: \$20.00

Food – Door Prizes – Auction
Dash Plaques (first 150 only) – 50/50 Drawing

CAR SHOW INFORMATION:
Wendell Saunders : 515-988-6902
Tom Ladd : 515-321-9329
Michael Shearn : 515-490-0736

**HERITAGE CAROUSEL
INFORMATION:**
www.heritagecarousel.org

ROLLIN RELICS®
Facebook: [rollinrelicsdsdm](https://www.facebook.com/rollinrelicsdsdm)
Website: www.rollinrelicsdsdm.org

PORCHFEST 2023: SAVE THE DATE

PorchFest 2023: September 10, 2023. More bands playing on the porches of the Union Park area.

Here are some links you might like:

Follow on Facebook:

PorchFest DSM [PorchFest DSM | Facebook](#)

PorchFest Website:

<https://www.porchfestdsm.org/>



Design by Mollie Wallace

Neighborhood Finance Corporation is Moving

Big news! NFC is moving this month. We've sold our 6th Avenue location and are excited to be part of the Franklin Ave revitalization in our new location.

Phone: (515)246-0010

Email: questions@neighborhoodfinance.org

Website: neighborhoodfinance.org



MAY 22

54th St, 53rd St, 51st St, 50th St, 49th Pl, 49th St, 48th Pl, 48th St, 47th St, 46th St, 45th St, Hickman Rd, Tower Park, Franklin Ave Library, Franklin Jr High, Anawim Housing, 48th St, 47th St, 46th St, 45th St, Lincoln Ave, Westminister Presbyterian Church, Snookies Malt Shop, Northwest Dr.

NEW LOCATION

We are excited to announce that we have outgrown our space and are moving so that we can provide more services to more people.

NEW ADDRESS 4908 Franklin Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50310

NMLS#8943 



Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC) has some good news regarding energy savings and home repairs for homeowners and homebuyers in your neighborhood!

Who is Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC)? NFC provides unique lending programs and other services to facilitate neighborhood revitalization in Polk County through partnerships with residents, governments, community-based organizations, lending institutions and the business community.

NFC is introducing our new Energy Advantage program that can help you and your neighbors take control of your energy footprint by adding or replacing items such as: solar, heat pump, new efficient HVAC system, Energy Star windows and doors, plus other items! NFC's Energy Advantage is a \$10,000 deferred loan, which is paired with a NFC repayable and forgivable loan (forgivable loan up to \$10,000) to meet your renovation and energy improvement goals to save on your energy costs.

Also, NFC is coordinating with the City of Des Moines and the Block Challenge Grant Program. Did you know you could borrow the funds for your project from NFC and take advantage of both the Block Challenge Grant and a NFC forgivable loan?

For more information on these and other NFC Loan Programs, visit the [Loan Programs](#) page on the NFC website. We would love to come and speak at a neighborhood meeting or event, please contact us to schedule it.

Contact us today at 515.246.0010 or NeighborhoodFinance.org or emailing a Loan Originator directly.

DANDELIONS!

April 5 is National Dandelion Day but in this area, the crop is just starting. Pella and Orange City have their Tulip Festivals. Union Park can have its Dandelion Festival. Celebrate with the many uses of this versatile plant.

Here are some uses for dandelions

- Dandelion greens salad
- Dandelion liniment for sore muscles
- Dandelion blooms tea
- dandelion jelly
- dandelion wine
- dandelion syrup for pancakes
- dandelion root roasted for coffee substitute
- dandelion soap
- dandelion crafts



Union Park Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale May 27th

The Union Park Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale traditionally has been held on the fourth Saturday in May. This is not an organized event so you are on your own. Plan a garage sale and put up a sign on Saturday May 27th. Clean up, clear out, and sell that stuff! If you've been thinking of having a sale, why not have it anyway and be a part of a larger effort?



CAPTAIN ROY'S
1900 Saylor Road
at Birdland Marina

OPEN FOR LUNCH DAILY

Closed Mondays

Instagram icon Facebook icon

**YOU CAN BUY
PEACE OF MIND**
SECURITY SYSTEM AND LOST & FOUND

ONE LOW COST, EASY TO DO **\$39** BASED ON A STRATEGY RECOMMENDED BY POLICE, SHERIFFS AND FBI FOR OVER 50 YEARS

ORDER TODAY
MyPropertyID.net
*\$39 for a 10-tag student kit. Larger size kits available online.

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(USA)

Union Park Presbyterian Church
1307 Thompson Avenue

We invite you to join us for worship on each Sunday, at 10 a.m.
Phone: 266-4700

THE HERITAGE CAROUSEL

2023 will mark the 25th year of operation for the Heritage Carousel in Union Park. The Carousel opened in July of 1998 and has become a Union Park icon alongside the Rocket Slide. The Des Moines Carousel Foundation is planning for a 25th Celebration next summer so stay tuned for more information. If you would like to be involved in planning this event, send an email to information@heritagecarousel.org.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Carousel by riding, purchasing merchandise, and making a financial contribution. The Carousel could not continue to operate if it were not for the financial support of the community. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the Carousel, please go to www.heritagecarousel.org to our donate page or send a check to Heritage Carousel, PO Box 8352, Des Moines, IA 50301-8352.



LEAD HORSE (Row 5, Outside)
"McFarland"
Adopted by
Union Park
Neighborhood Association

CITY LAUNCHES "IMPROVING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS" INITIATIVE

DES MOINES, IOWA — Wednesday, January 25, 2023 —The City of Des Moines launched an initiative today to strengthen and revitalize neighborhoods by offering property owners financial help for much-needed home repairs. The voluntary program, *Improving Our Neighborhoods (ION)*, will help homeowners make external repairs, connect to resources and navigate the home repair system.

City Manager Scott Sanders said that the goal of *ION* is two-fold – to repair deteriorating properties that diminish the value of neighboring homes and to reduce the number of houses degrading into nuisance properties requiring demolition by the City.

According to the last U.S. Census, more than half of the houses in Des Moines were built before 1960. The *ION* program will focus on roughly 4,000 houses identified in need of repairs. *ION* team members this week will begin reaching out across Des Moines to deliver informational packets and invite those homeowners to participate in the *ION* program.

Sanders said \$3.5 million in financial assistance has been committed to *ION* in 2023 that will help fund exterior property repairs for 100-150 Des Moines residents.

"With *ION*, we're striving to help homeowners with repairs that will make Des Moines neighborhoods healthier and more connected," Sanders said. "It's a significant challenge, but the *Improving Our Neighborhoods* initiative is a creative and ambitious effort that gets us moving in the right direction."

These are the exterior repairs that will be offered by *ION* as well as the criteria to qualify:

- Repair Assistance Services Offered
- Roof repairs/replacement
- Siding repairs/replacement
- Exterior foundation repairs
- Windows/doors
- Work on the property lot that affects the livability in the structure
- Driveways (only if a safety hazard exists)

Criteria

- Property must be within City limits
- Repairs are exterior, not interior
- Property taxes, utilities, and mortgage must be current
- Property must be insured or have the capability of being insured

Property Improvement Supervisor Dan Grauerholz said *ION* will provide financial assistance on a first-come, first-served basis to homeowners whose income falls below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). For the average household of three in Polk County, that would be just under \$71,000.

Assistance Options

For small projects, up to \$3,500 will be provided as a grant to qualified residents with an AMI of 80% and below.

Homeowners with an AMI of 50% or below will receive 100% forgivable funding up to \$20,000 and an additional \$20,000 in a 50/50 lien.

CONTINUED: "IMPROVING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS" INITIATIVE

Area Median Income (AMI)*

100% - \$88,650

80% - \$70,950

60% - \$49,320

50% - \$44,350

For a family of 3 in Polk County

"Every member of our *ION* team knows that this program goes beyond fixing up houses, this is about helping people who might struggle a bit to get the job done themselves," Grauerholz said. "We successfully tested *ION* as a pilot project last year and the response was overwhelming and heartfelt."

Grauerholz said if there are repairs that don't qualify under *ION*, other community partners will be contacted to try and get the work done. For additional information about *Improving Our Neighborhoods*, go to DSM.city/ION.

Rocket Slide Still Under Repairs

According to a Des Moines Register article on April 25, 2023, the 50 year old Rocket Slide is still closed and undergoing repairs. The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department was quoted as saying "It WILL be back! Work on this equipment will likely be finished in the summer of 2024..."

The renovations will make sure the equipment meets modern safety codes. Improvements include the ramp and stairs, to make sure they are not so steep, the deck will have a non-slip material, and all the joints between the floor panels will be checked. The playground will be re-surfaced. A custom made slide will replace the old slide and the entire structure will be repainted, according to the Parks and Recreation Department.



Confused about holiday garbage collection?

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

When the holiday listed below falls on a weekday, the garbage and yard waste collections will be delayed one day for the rest of that week.

New Years Day

Memorial Day

4th of July

Labor Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

Holidays not listed will not cause collection delays.

Example: Thanksgiving falls on Thursday, so Thursday collection moves to Friday, and Friday will move to Saturday

For questions, contact Public Works 24/7 at 515-283-4950

Avoid a Parking Ticket 101

Did you know it's a violation of Des Moines Municipal Code to park a vehicle on a city street or on city property without the license plate displaying the current registration sticker? Registrations may be renewed during the month before and the month after the registration month (normally the birth month of the registered owner). To avoid a parking ticket, apply early, and immediately put the sticker on your plate when you receive it. Remember, the sticker shows the month and year it expires.



Grass Clippings in City Streets Create Problems



Grass clippings and other yard debris can clog the city's storm sewer intakes causing street flooding; therefore, the City is reminding residents and landscape companies that an administrative fine may be issued for blowing or raking grass clippings and leaves into a public street. The fine is \$50 for the first offense, \$75 for the second offense within the same year and the \$100 for the third offense.

Good Neighbor Tip: Parked Vehicles

Vehicles parked on city streets must be in working condition with current registration. No vehicle may remain parked in one spot longer than 24 hours.

On private property, vehicles in the front yard must be parked on a hard surface, not on your lawn. Any inoperable or unlicensed vehicles must be stored inside a garage or shed. To report nuisance vehicles, call Neighborhood Inspections at 515-283-4046.

Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

info@unionparkdsm.com

BECOME A MEMBER

Name _____

Address _____

9-digit zip code _____

Form is also available on our website at www.unionparkdsm.com

Phone (optional) _____ E-mail _____

Yearly Dues: Three levels of Membership: \$10.00 Family membership, \$25 Supporter, \$30 Business

We accept cash or checks only

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/Colepw2005@gmail.com

All memberships are due on January 1st of each year.

If you do not have a printer, that is ok. Just write your contact information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your check or cash and mail to

UPNA Treasurer, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402

Your information is always kept private. We do not sell or give your information to ANYONE.

NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES:
The Union Park Neighborhood Association consists of the neighborhood from Hull Avenue on the north, the railroad tracks (Glenbrook Drive) on the east, Washington Avenue on the south and the Des Moines River and Second Avenue on the west.

UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

