



# UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

[www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)

Volume 26 Issue 2 - Rock-It In the Park Issue

July 2026

## Inside this issue:

Rock-It In the Park	2
Bounce Houses/Inflatables	3
Featured Movie	4
Music Under the Stars	5
Jazz in July	5
PorchFestDSM 2026	6
National Night Out	6
Story Time at the Carousel	7
Cruise to the Carousel	7
SCRUB Day	8
NBSD Ward 2 Meeting	9
Sponsors / Thank You	10-11
Membership	12

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[www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)

Visit our website for news and information.

## Rock-It in the Park! An Independence Day Celebration

The Union Park Neighborhood Association and SparkUP Committee are busy planning the third annual old fashioned Independence Day Celebration in Union Park, just north of the Rocket Slide. The events starts at noon on July 4th. First will be the Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Then the fun starts with a free lunch of hot dogs, chips, watermelon and water and other favorites. Karaoke, a mosaic, music, and water balloon dodge ball will follow. The day culminates with a movie in the park. Games and bounce houses for the kids and competition games for adults will be available throughout the day. The Heritage Carousel will offer free rides from 12:00 to 4:00. There is something for every age group.

- Thank you to our sponsors: Captain Roy's, Amvets, Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Invest DSM, Parks Area Foundation, Polk County Board of Supervisors, Neighborhood Development Corporation, Union Park Neighborhood Association, Hy-Vee, Dairy Zone, Fareway, and Group Creative Services.

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## EVENTS OF THE DAY - ROCK-IT IN THE PARK

- Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem by Amvets Post #2
- Free Food:
  - Grilled hot dogs
  - Chips
  - Bottled water
  - Watermelon
  - Bomb Pops
- 6 Bounce House/Inflatables
- Free Rides on the Carousel: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
- Musical entertainment
- Face painting, free stuff
- Games for kids and water balloon dodge ball
- Free outdoor movie in the park: *"The Iron Giant"* and free popcorn

**Note:** Fireworks are not allowed in City Parks. Alcohol is not allowed in City Parks. All donations go to Union Park Neighborhood Association to fund more neighborhood events



# Featured Bounce Houses for Rock-It 2026

<b>Name</b>
<p data-bbox="329 405 711 447"><b>Leaps And Bounds</b></p> 
<p data-bbox="329 669 574 711"><b>UFO Combo</b></p> 
<p data-bbox="329 934 574 976"><b>Bungee Run</b></p> 
<p data-bbox="329 1192 760 1234"><b>Basketball Connect 4</b></p> 
<p data-bbox="329 1457 760 1499"><b>Toddler Zoo Playland</b></p> 
<p data-bbox="329 1715 878 1757"><b>Inflatable Battle Axe Throw</b></p> 

# Featured Movie for Rock-It 2026



Starting at 4:00 pm the movie *The Iron Giant* will be shown on the big screen in Union Park. Free popcorn will be available.

*The Iron Giant* is an animated sci-fi adventure where a curious 9 year old boy named Hogarth Hughes in a small Maine town befriends an innocent alien giant robot from outer space. As they bond, themes of identity, choice, and compassion unfold against Cold War paranoia. A U.S. Government agent named Kent Mansley arrives in town, determined to destroy the giant at all costs. It's up to Hogarth to protect him by keeping him at Dean McCoppin's place in the junkyard. Praised for its heartfelt storytelling, rich animation, and mature themes appealing to all ages, it's widely regarded as a modern classic worth watching.

Thank You to the City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation for providing this movie and the equipment to show it!



# Music Under the Stars

## Music under the Stars 2026 Summer series

Since 1947, Music Under the Stars has welcomed families for free evening concerts. For decades, central Iowans have packed their lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets, gathered friends and family, and come to enjoy memorable performances of band music. Concerts feature a diverse variety of standard and contemporary works by premier composers performed by Iowa's own professional musicians. The musicians are those you hear at a Civic Center Broadway show or at the Des Moines Symphony, and they come together each season to perform free programs that appeal to all ages.

Concert time: Sundays 7-8:30 PM

In case of inclement weather, concert will be held at the Performing Arts Hall at Drake University

### July 5: Stars, Stripes & Celebration

Dana Sloter, clarinet

Marisa Cravero, guest vocalist

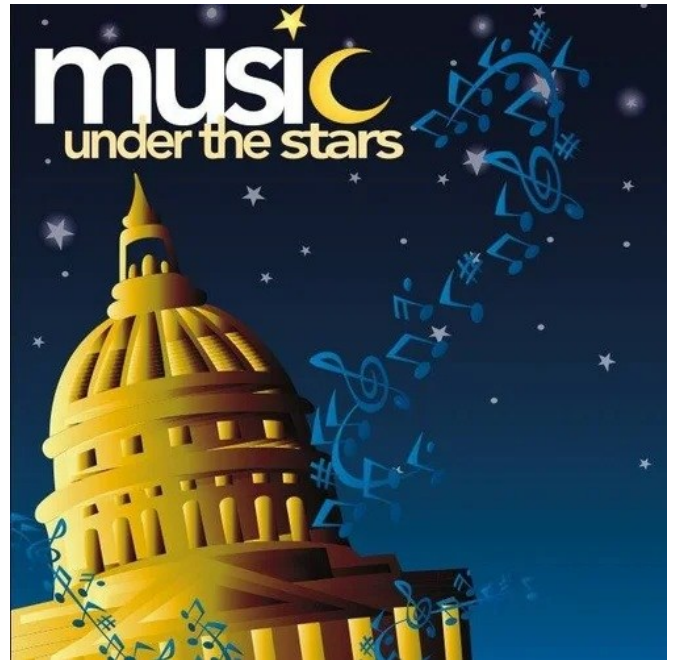
Jasper Winery

### July 12: Bourbon Street Parade

NOLA Jazz Band with Abbie Sawyer

Lauridsen Amphitheater at Water Works Park

Killing Community Series



## Jazz in July at Hoyt Sherman Place



### Tuesday, July 7

5:30-6:15 PM: Creative Music Studio (CMS) Student Group [outside on John & Penny Krantz Stage]

6:30-8:15 PM: NOLA Jazz Band with Abbie Sawyer [outside on EMC Plaza Stage]

### Tuesday, July 14

5:30-6:15 PM: Community Jazz Center (CJC) Youth Group [outside on John & Penny Krantz Stage]

6:30-8:15 PM: The Mangione Collective [outside on EMC Plaza Stage]

### Tuesday, July 21

5:30-6:15 PM: WDM Valley High School Jazz Combo [outside on John & Penny Krantz Stage]

6:30-8:15 PM: Carson Parker Quartet featuring Avi Gedler [outside on EMC Plaza Stage]

### Tuesday, July 28

5:30-7:15 PM: Phillips, Towne, and D'Angelo Organ Trio with special guest Matt Landon [outside on EMC Plaza Stage]

7:30-9:00 PM: The Robert Espe Big Band presents "A Gentle Man: Kenny Wheeler" [inside on Theater Stage]

Featuring Large and Small Ensembles and special guest Avi Gedler

## **PORCHFEST 2026: SEPTEMBER 13 - SAVE THE DATE**

The 5th Annual PorchFest DSM is coming back to the Union Park area Sunday, September 13, 2026. From front porches to sidewalks, the metro will come alive with local music, neighbors, and community vibes you won't want to miss. More bands playing on the porches of the Union Park area. The lineup and porch map will be announced soon. Stay tuned.

Here are some links you might like:

**Follow on Facebook:** [PorchFest DSM](#) [PorchFest DSM | Facebook](#)

**PorchFest Website:** <https://www.porchfestdsm.org/>

# **PORCHFEST — DSM — UNION PARK**

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## **National Night Out August 4, 2026: Save the Date**

National Night Out (NNO) will be on the first Tuesday of August in 2026. 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 Street) in their parking lot on August 4th 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.

## Storytime at the Heritage Carousel

Join us for Storytime at the Carousel with the Des Moines Public Library. This free event is open to the public and features stories, songs, a craft, and a free Carousel Ride!

**Friday, July 10, 2026 at 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM and Friday, July 24 at 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM.**

Thank you to ride sponsors: Captain Roy's (June 12<sup>th</sup>), Cara Stewart, Sandy Scavo, Becky Johnson and Colleen Evers in Memory of Shirlee Herrold (July 10<sup>th</sup>), and The Church at Union Park (July 24<sup>th</sup>).

**Located in Union Park  
1801 Pennsylvania Ave,  
Des Moines, IA 50316  
Phone: 515-323-8200**

**Email: [information@HeritageCarousel.org](mailto:information@HeritageCarousel.org)**



## Cruise to the Carousel - August 30th

Join us for the 26th Annual Cruise to the Carousel!  
Presented by Rollin' Relics DSM  
Sunday, August 30, 2026  
9 am – 3 pm,  
Rain or Shine!  
Union Park —



1801 Pennsylvania Ave, Des Moines, IA 50316

Spectators are FREE or register your car for \$20

To register, bring your car to the Carousel starting and your \$20 with entry fee the morning of the event. Downloadable entry form coming soon.

Enjoy all the great classic cars, plus prizes, food, 50/50 drawing, auction, dash plaques (first 150 only), and FREE Carousel Rides!

9 am to Noon — Register your vehicle (\$20)

Noon to 1:30 pm — Voting

2:30 pm — Awards

Come and enjoy all day, whether you bring a car or not! Spectators are FREE!

Top 20 cars chosen in each class – Stock & Modified

10 Special Awards chosen

(Rollin Relics car club members are not part of the competition)

This event is sponsored annually by Rollin Relics DSM, with all proceeds going to support The Heritage 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. (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 at 515-283-4950.

**City of Des Moines  
Department of Public Works  
2026 SCRUB Calendar**



Date	Location	Hours
7/18/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
8/15/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
9/19/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. <b>Bell Avenue Business Park, 1901 Bell Ave.</b> [MEGA SCRUB]	City 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
10/17/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
11/21/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM



## NEIGHBORHOOD BASED SERVICE DELIVERY

# WARD II MEETING



**6:00-7:30 P.M.**  
June 24, 2026



**Eastside Library**  
(2559 Hubbell Avenue)

### Agenda:

- Update on DMPD's 5-year strategic plan from Chief McTaggart
- Presentation from detectives on trending scams and fraud
- Learn about resources for your neighborhood



# Thank you to these sponsors of Rock-It in the Park





# POLK COUNTY

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## Board of Supervisors



*neighborhood  
development  
corporation*



# Invest DSM

**STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS**



**Parks Area Foundation**

Highland Park | Oak Park | Union Park



# 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](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Dues: Three levels of Membership: \$10.00 Family membership, \$25 Supporter, \$30 Business We accept cash, checks or Venmo 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

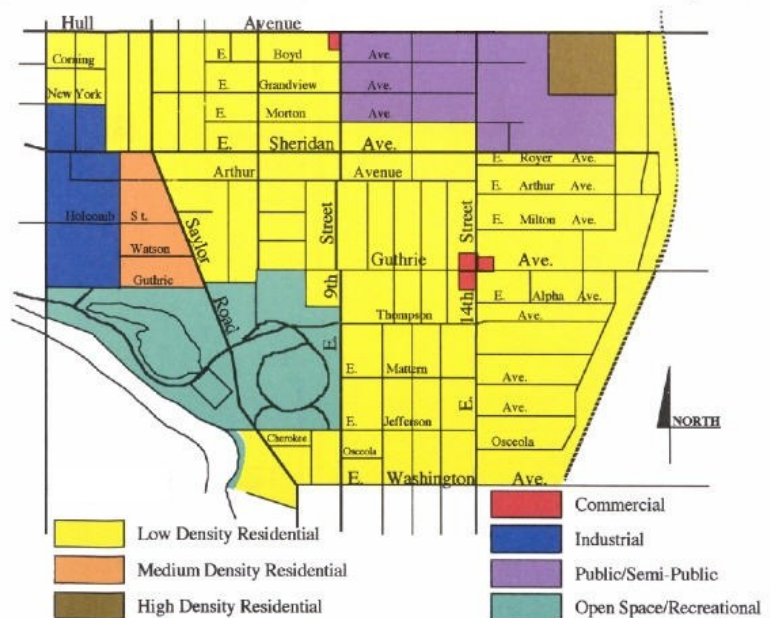
Your information is always kept private. We do not sell or give your information to ANYONE.



**venmo**  
@UPNApayment

**IMPORTANT:** If using Venmo, PLEASE fill out the membership form as well so we may properly credit your membership account and mail to: **UPNA Treasurer, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402**

### UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



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

Did you miss our last newsletter issue or would you like to catch up? Our newsletters are posted on our website at [www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)