



UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Volume 08, Issue 2 October 2008

UPNA Newsletter

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Fall General Meeting

Tuesday, October 28th, 2008 at 7:00 PM
Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur Ave

The UPNA Fall General Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 28th, 7pm at Union Park Baptist Church located at 821 Arthur. In the past our general meetings have been held in the auditorium of the Krumm Business Center on the Grand View College Campus. 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 to <http://www.upbcdesmoines.com/>.

Our agenda includes two guest speakers. Bill Stowe, with the Des Moines Public Works Department will discuss rebuilding the levees that failed this summer, the construction on East 14th near Grand View College, snow removal, and the new blue toter recycling program. Scott Bach, from Grand View College, will be on hand to discuss the exciting changes that are taking place at the College; including the new building, the new football team and the proposal to change to a University. Each speaker will allow an opportunity for questions and answers after their presentations. Also on the agenda, Election of Officers and Marilyn Fors-Roby will present awards to the 13 Lawn-of-the-Week winners.

Hope to see you there!

FLOOD of 2008



In the early hours of June 14th, the levee near Riverview Island was breached by the high water level of the Des Moines River. The river had been above flood stage for many days. It had already crested by June 14th but the levee, which was built in the 1950's, could not hold back the tremendous pressure of the river any longer.

The result was an inundation of water that flowed eastward towards the Birdland Neighborhood, which is a part of the Union Park neighborhood. North High School as well as businesses on and near 6th Avenue were also flooded. Kiwanis Riverview Nature Island was completely covered with floodwaters. The affected area in Birdland primarily consisted of houses on E. Holcomb, Watson and Guthrie. A little over 50 houses had some level of water infiltration.



The houses that were hit the hardest had water up to around 6' above the floor level on the ground floor. The houses closer to Saylor Road were less affected but still had heavy damage caused by water entering the basements.

Help for Our Neighborhood

On June 12th, prior to the levee breach, a sandbagging operation was set up in Union Park. The Army Corps of Engineers, along with hundreds of volunteers worked feverishly to fill sandbags for the Corps to place along the levee. Volunteers came not only from Union Park but also from across the city and from neighboring cities

As soon as the water receded, we had lots of offers of help. There were so many who helped that we cannot list them all here but a few examples are: The Southern Baptist group arrived within days and began the hard work of removing water damaged drywall, flooring and other material from affected houses. Various local agencies set up a center in Union Park to Assist residents. Also, FEMA set up a Disaster Recovery Center at the Harding School

for residents to register for Disaster Assistance. The city and county governments both directed resources to the area to assist with cleanup as well as rebuilding. Des Moines Neighbors and State Senator Jack Hatch helped coordinate volunteers from Westminster Church to conduct a clean up day on July 12th. A very important alliance that was formed even before the levee breach was the one between Union Park, Highland Park, and Oak Park Neighborhood Associations, along with the Kiwanis (Kiwanis are the stewards of Riverview Nature Island). We all got together in a loose, informal group that we refer to as The Parks Area Neighborhoods (TPAN). These other groups were instrumental in all of the efforts detailed below.

Role of UPNA

During all of this, members of the Union Park Neighborhood Association took an early and proactive role in the cleanup and rebuilding of our neighborhood. We used a mass e-mail to get the word out that we needed volunteers for sandbagging. We posted updates with vital information on our website. On June 16th, we organized a meeting between with UPNA, city council members, the mayor, county officials and state senators and representatives to help coordinate the recovery effort. Similar follow-up meetings were also coordinated by UPNA & TPAN. These meetings were invaluable in that they allowed a forum for our neighbors to receive valuable information from our governmental representatives. They also allowed an opportunity for residents who were affected to speak directly to representatives of our city, county, state and federal governments. We also have spent time coordinating and delivering donated items such as chemical sanitizer, tables, chairs and beds to our neighbors in need. The Lions club donated \$50 vouchers which could be redeemed at several local stores for cleaning supplies, food and medical

supplies. We coordinated with them and walked the neighborhood, handing out as many vouchers as we could.

Donations

On July 20th, we held a benefit Jazz concert in Union Park. Proceeds from the concert will go to our neighbors in the Birdland area. Proceeds from the UPNA home tour will also go into the relief fund. We have been actively working on raising other cash donations for some time now. West Des Moines Methodist Church has been an invaluable partner in helping raise money. They conducted their own benefit concert and raised a significant amount of money in just one night. We expect that by the middle of November, we will have raised enough money that we will be able to distribute meaningful donations to households in the Birdland area that were hit the hardest.

Our Post-Flood Neighborhood

UPNA and TPAN are committed to continuing the work of rebuilding and improving our neighborhood. We have continued to communicate with our governmental representatives to define our needs and future action. We have assurances that funding for levee reconstruction is forthcoming. If all goes according to plan, the levees in our area will be completely rebuilt by

2010. Other goals include assistance for businesses in the area, additional improvement projects in public areas (Union Park, Birdland Marina, Birdland Pool, etc.) and residential redevelopment in the Birdland neighborhood. Be assured that the Union Park Neighborhood Association, along with our TPAN partners will continue to dedicate ourselves in the months and years to come to the hard but important work of improving our neighborhood and surrounding areas. —Jack Daugherty



The Parks Area Neighborhoods

Monthly Meetings

UPNA Monthly Steering Committee meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Meetings start at 7:00 pm at Grand View College in the Humphrey Center ("Old Main") on the 2nd floor.

For more information, please feel free to call any of the officers

The Parks Area Neighborhoods, or TPAN is an informal alliance between Union Park, Highland Park, and Oak Park Neighborhood Associations, along with the Kiwanis. We have all been communicating regularly, meeting periodically and working together for the good of our area. It is a natural alliance because our individual areas border on each other and what is good for one is good for all. The Parks Area Foundation and the Highland Park Business Club (www.highlandparkbusinessclub.com) are two other organizations that members of Oak and Highland Park have formed. These groups together have done some good work, such as the streetscape improvements in the 6th Avenue and Euclid area. Kiwanis are instrumental because they operate the Kiwanis River-

view Nature Island (the former location of River-view Amusement Park located at the West end of Corning Avenue just west of 6th Avenue). They have improved the island tremendously over the past years and made it a nice place to enjoy nature within the city. The TPAN alliance was especially important during the response to the flood earlier this year. Each of our organizations was affected in one way or another. People from Highland Park, Oak Park and the Kiwanis helped us immensely at the benefit concert in Union Park.

This summer Union Park neighbors volunteered to help out at the Sweet Corn Feed that Highland Park and Oak Park have worked on together in the past. UPNA also helped out with Oak Park's Na-

tional Night Out event in McHenry Park this summer.

As a larger group we are able to exert greater influence with the City of Des Moines and work with them to improve our areas. We can also pull from each other's volunteer bases when needed to help our individual events. It is very apparent that we can accomplish more together than we could separately. Lately, we have been talking about what types of events and projects we may be able to accomplish in the future. There are many possibilities. As always, if you would like to get involved in the beginning of something we predict will turn out to be not only a fun alliance but also a meaningful one, just contact one the UPNA officers.

UPNA Event Recaps

This was a busy summer for UPNA, and of course the flood had much to do with that. The Garage Sale was held in May this year, a month earlier than in the past. Our Home Tour was in June and was open to the public for the first time and featuring four homes and two gardens. Our Jazz-in-the-Park event, featuring the Roxi Copeland Trio, became a flood relief concert for the flood victims and as a thank you to all the people who volunteered during the response. Free will donations were taken. Free food was enjoyed by the concert goers. A special thank-you to: HyVee and Fareway for donating hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, chips and cookies; Anderson Erickson for the lemonade; Highland Park Neighborhood for providing hot buttered sweet corn; and to the person who came and set up a cotton candy machine! A mental health specialist from Broadlawns was on hand to help people with their critical stress and Mid-American was there to provide information on billing, assistance in buying new appliances and other special programs. Many county and city officials were in attendance at the concert. A new event this year was the Movies in the Park, sponsored by the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department. Each Saturday evening in September, movies were shown in Union Park. We were thrilled to have our park chosen as the location and hope to have the movies back next year.

2008 Lawn of the Week Awards

Each year since 1992, the UPNA Steering Committee has sponsored the Lawn of the Week Award. This year, between the months of May through September, Marilyn Fors-Roby volunteered to walk and drive through the area to select outstanding front yards of neighbors whose lawns exemplified both neatness and beauty. As she found a winner, she placed a green and white sign in their yard for one week to proclaim them as the "Union Park Neighborhood Lawn of the Week". The selected yards exhibited both good landscape design and consistent quality of yard maintenance.

This year's winners will be honored at the Fall General Meeting, with a slide show that feature the winning lawns, and will receive a certificate of achievement and a gift certificate from Goodes Greenhouse.

This year's winners are the following

Pauline Sydness, 411 E Sheridan
 Clark Betts, 603 E Sheridan
 Carolyn & Dan Rogers, 710 E 9th
 Shawn & Anne Johnson, 1901 E 9th
 Lyle Spilman & Randa Wieck, 1534 Wilson
 Tony Maro Auto Body Shop, 2321 2nd Ave
 Chuck & Jean Clark, 1515 Guthrie
 Walt & Bonnie Bennett, 1629 Milton
 Dennis & Christine Perkins, 2607 Sampson
 Betty Graziano, 225 E Sheridan
 Merlie Crowley, 2300 E 12th
 John & Coleen Brommel, 2614 Columbia
 Dale & Alberta Danks, 1700 Arthur



Thank you to Marilyn Fors-Roby and her helpers for finding these great yards and to all of our winners for keeping our neighborhood beautiful while inspiring the rest of us!

Last Scrub Day for 2008: Saturday Oct 25

Saturday, October 25 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm, will be the last weekend for this year that Des Moines residents may get rid of trash and yard waste by taking it to the Metro Waste Authority (MWA) facilities. It also will be the last time residents may take appliances to the Transfer Station and dispose of them for free. Normally, there is a fee for the City to pick up appliances.

MWA Transfer Station is at 4198 Delaware AVE: This site is for general trash and appliances. NO Yard Waste. Items that are accepted at this site are: Trash containers, General trash including furniture, Lawn mowers without fluids, Televisions, computers, Tires (any size on or off rim)
 Appliances - no charge (PILOT program)

Air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, dehumidifiers, furnaces, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, etc

MWA Compost Park is at 1601 Harriett Street: This site is for yard waste only:

Brush, tree limbs 24" diameter or less; maximum length 10', prunings, loose leaves, loose grass clippings, straw, hay

Guidelines and a map to the MWA facilities are available on the Des Moines city website at http://www.ci.des-moines.ia.us/departments/PW/scrub_2008.htm

Halloween Fun Facts

- The first Halloween celebration in America took place in Anoka, Minnesota in 1921.
- More than 93% of children, under the age of 12, will go out trick-or-treating
- About 50% of adults dress up for Halloween, while 67% take part in the activities, such as parties, decorating the house and trick-or-treating with their children
- 86% of Americans decorate their house for Halloween
- Halloween candy sales average about \$2 billion annually in the United States. It is the largest candy purchasing holiday, bigger than Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day!
- About 99% of pumpkins that are marketed domestically are turned into jack-o-lanterns
- 90% of parents admit to sneaking goodies from their kids Halloween trick-or-treat bags.

BEGGERS NIGHT IS THURSDAY, November 30th 6-8pm



Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113
Des Moines , IA 50316-9402



TIME VALUE
Fall General Meeting
October 28th, 7PM
Union Park Baptist Church

Membership Dues

Name _____

Address _____

9-digit zip code _____

(Please include the last 4 digits, check utility bills if you don't know yours. THANK YOU!)

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. If you are a member and are unsure when your membership expires.

I am interested in:

- Helping with the Lawn of the Week Program
- Serving on the Steering Committee
- Assisting with the Newsletter
- Helping plant trees
- Helping on UPNA's Home Tour

More information on _____
