

UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.unionparkdsm.com

Volume 9 Issue 1

May 2009

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Spring General Meeting

Tuesday, May 19th, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur Ave

The UPNA Spring General Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19th, 7pm at Union Park Baptist Church located at 821 Arthur. 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 go to

<http://www.upbcdesmoines.com/>.

Our agenda includes guest speaker Bill Stowe from the Public Works Department and a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers. They will give us an update on the status of the levee reconstruction and answer questions from neighbors. Angela Connolly, our Polk County Board of Supervisor will be there to present UPNA with a check for the grants we were awarded. Hope to see you there!

UPNA Officers/Contacts

Co-Chairs

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



Neighborhood Garage Sale

Yes, it's time to clean up, clear out, and sell that stuff! The 4th Annual Union Park Neighborhood Garage Sale will be Saturday May 23rd.

If you've been thinking of having a sale, why not

have it then? UPNA will advertise it for you in the Des Moines Register and you can just put out your own sign. Lists of other sales will be available at all the houses participating. To get on the list, call Meghan Daugherty at 558-

3501 and let her know.

Our three previous sales have been very successful. Each year we have more sales! Let's make this an even bigger event this year.

Flowers In The Park

Union Park Neighborhood Association and Des Moines Park and Recreation Department are planning to plant more flowers and flower beds in our park. Perennials and flowering trees will be added to the annual flower beds starting in 2010.

If you are willing to volunteer to help maintain the new flower beds and trees, please e-mail us or mail the Membership card in the newsletter to UPNA. We'll inform you about how you can help beautify our park.

Come take a walk in Union Park!

Get involved!

Be a part of something beautiful!



Picture of Union Park at the turn of the century.

UPNA Invitation To Be A Member

Each year, the Union Park Neighborhood Association holds a Spring and a Fall General Meeting. The agenda at these meetings includes guest speakers that are of interest to a wide range of residents as well as a business meeting.

The meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend, however only current members of the Association may vote on business items. Membership in the Association is open to any person who lives, worships or owns property within the Association's boundaries and is current with their membership dues.

Between General Meetings, a Steering Committee manages the business and affairs of the Association, made up of voting members in good standing. Monthly Steering Committee meetings are scheduled for 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. Any changes to that schedule are announced on our website.

The Steering Committee meetings are also open meetings and any neighborhood resident is welcome to attend, provide input, help with special projects or serve on sub-

committees or just come to meet your neighbors. . 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.

UPNA is accomplishing more each year, so the more people that are involved, the more good we can do!

To become a member in the Union Park Neighborhood Association, see the Membership Application on the last page of this newsletter.

2009 Home Tour

The Neighborhood Home Tour is now open to the public. So invite your friends and visit some of the grand old houses in the Union Park Neighborhood.

One of the greatest advantages of living in an established neighborhood is the variety of homes. This year we will have very different houses open for the UPNA Home Tour on Saturday, June 20th

from Noon to 4:00pm.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by mailing the form below. They can also be purchased the day of the tour at 1707 E 8th Street, (south of the park) where you will also pick up your map.

The cost of tickets are \$5.00. This includes admittance to all the house tours

and gardens. Proceeds from the Home Tour will benefit The Union Park Neighborhood Association. Please look for more info to follow on our website at www.unionparkdsm.com and in the Des Moines Register.

We need homes for next year's tour, so please contact a member of the Steering Committee if you would like to be on the tour.

Home Tour Order Form

Please send check or money order to:

UPNA Treasurer

PO Box 16113

Des Moines, IA 50316-9402

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

of tickets at \$5.00 each _____ Total: _____

You will be able to pick up your tickets at 1707 E. 8th Street the day of the tour.

Lawn of the Week

Since 1992, the UPNA Steering Committee has sponsored the Lawn of the Week Award. Last Fall we honored 13 neighbors whose outstanding front yards exemplified neatness, good landscape design and consistent quality of yard maintenance. For more information on that go to our website at www.unionparkdsm.com under the "Accomplishments" link.

Once again, Marilyn Fors-Roby will be out scouting the neighborhood for lawns to place the green and white sign for one week to proclaim the "Union Park Neighborhood Lawn of the Week".

When you see these signs in your neighbor's yards, please congratulate them on their recognition. It speaks well for your part of the neighborhood.



TPAN (The Parks Area Neighborhoods) Events

May 16th & 17th
Heritage Carousel
Opening Weekends

May 19th
UNPA General Meeting

May 23rd
UPNA Garage Sale

May 30th
Dam to Dam Run
Water station at McHenry
Park

June 20th
UPNA Tour of Homes
also

Polk County Master
Gardeners Garden Tour

Fridays in June & July 3rd
Rendezvous on Riverview

July 18th
Highland Park Sweet Corn
Day at 6th and Euclid

July 26th
Jazz in July in Union Park

June 4th to October 1st
Every Thursday 4-7pm
Highland Park Farmers
Market at 6th and Euclid

August 23rd
Rollin' Relics
Car Display in Union Park

August 29th
Parks Area Classic Car
Display at 6th and Euclid



Neighborhood of the Year!

Each year, the East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce presents awards for East Side Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Neighborhood Group of the Year. In February the Union Park Neighborhood received the Neighborhood Group of the Year.

The nominees are considered based on the organization's exemplary leadership in tackling neighborhood issues, bringing neighbors together, creating community cohesiveness, supporting neighbors and working cooperatively with government and other entities to accomplish its goals.



UPNA Co-Chair Receives Commendation

On Tuesday, March 31 UPNA Co-chair Jack Daugherty received a commendation from Angela Connolly and the Polk County Board of Supervisors. He received this award for his efforts toward flood relief and community betterment. This was the first time they have given such an award. Congratulations to Jack, thank you for your efforts and for being a positive representative in our community.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The City of Des Moines has been awarded \$3.9 million to redevelop vacant foreclosed and abandoned homes through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Union Park Neighborhood is one of two dozen neighborhoods in Des Moines that have been impacted by foreclosures and where some of these funds are targeted to help with vacant properties that can drag down the values of nearby homes and have negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

This program cannot prevent or help with properties in the foreclosure process. There are other resources for that purpose. This program is to purchase and rehab properties that are still structurally sound homes but in need of some attention. Properties that are too far gone may have to be demolished and new homes built on the lot. Partners in this Program include Polk County Housing, the City of Des Moines and Habitat for Humanity.

Vacant homes can become targets for squatters, or vandals that can destroy or strip all the valuable elements of a home and turn it into a worthless eyesore for your neighborhood.

To limit the negative impact of a foreclosed home in your neighborhood, consider adopting it. Keep an eye on it. Contact the Real Estate Agent, if the property is listed, to see if they have creative ways to keep the property maintained that is mutually beneficial. If not, call the city inspector if you see something at the property that is not right, such as broken windows, or call the police if you see graffiti or crime concerns. The city will not maintain the yard, and Polk County Weed Commissioner will not cut the grass unless it is 12 inches tall. Consider mowing the yard and parking an extra car in the drive to make it look lived in.

For more information or to submit a house that is vacant to be considered under this program, contact:

David Dunn, Neighborhood Planner: City of Des Moines, 515-283-4287, ddunn@dmgov.org

Rendezvous on Riverview

On each Friday in June and the first Friday of July, Rendezvous on Riverview, will be held at the Riverview Island located at the end of Corning Ave, West of 6th Ave.

Riverview Island was home to Riverview Amusement Park from 1915 until it was closed in the mid 1970's. At various times in its history, it featured a beach and swimming lagoon, a swimming pool, ballroom, roller coaster, powerboats and other amusement rides. It was very well-known in the area. Although all of the rides and buildings are now gone, Riverview still holds a special place in the memory of many of our neighborhood residents.

Rendezvous on Riverview is a weekly summer social event beginning at 4:30pm and ending at 8pm. Each week will feature a different live band. Food, pop, beer and wine will be for sale and admission is free!

This is a new event brought to you by TPAN (The Parks Area Neighborhoods) which consists of Union, Highland and Oak Park Neighborhood Associations and Riverview Nature Island.

Pets on leashes and children are welcome but coolers are not allowed. Ample parking is available adjacent to the island. Bands tentatively scheduled to appear are: Gimmick, Brother Trucker, 35

South, The Blue Band and Spam.

Riverview Island is looking great! Since last year's floods, an extensive clean up has been done and the island has been re-graded and seeded. There is plenty of room on the island so bring all of your friends and neighbors to experience the rebirth of Riverview Island. This is just the beginning of great things to come for the island and our neighborhood!

RENDEZVOUS ON RIVERVIEW



Record Year for Grants

UPNA's Correspondence Secretary, Beth Govoni has been busy writing grant applications this year. UPNA has been awarded a total of \$14,600 in grants!

Angela Connolly, one of our Polk County Board of Supervisors has provided great support for our area. Polk County Board of Supervisors provided the following grants: \$2,600 for Rendezvous on Riverview, \$2,000 to pay for the mailing of this newsletter to the entire neighborhood.

(Newsletters are usually mailed only to UPNA members) \$2,000 for the Jazz in July event and \$2,000 for improvements to the brick pillars at the southeast corner of the park (E 9th and Jefferson).

UPNA was also awarded a \$6,000 Streetscape grant from Des Moines Parks and Recreation. This will pay for two things; the first being the tuck pointing and restoration of the 4 brick pillars at E 9th and

Jefferson. Second, we will hire a landscape architect to provide a design for future improvements. The design will show how we will restore the southeast corner of the park to its original grandeur.

We intend to fund implementation of this design by applying for additional grants in the years to come.

Jazz in July

Reserve Sunday July 26th for Union Park's 3rd Jazz in July event! The Jason Danielson Trio will play from 5pm – 7pm on stage, located on Thompson Avenue near the East Shelter.

FREE admission to the concert so bring the whole family and your lawn chairs. Light snacks and beverages will be sold. Come enjoy Jazz in July in Union Park!

Half Century Residence & Neighborhood Star Awards

How long have you lived in the same house or in Union Park Neighborhood? Iowans are known for their love of home and land. Two Programs, sponsored by the Union Park Neighborhood Association, will be recognizing neighborhood residents who have lived in the same house or neighborhood for fifty years or more.

The purpose of these programs are to call attention to and honor our neighborhood’s long-time residents. The living memory and the presence of these individuals in our neighborhood contribute a distinct sense of place to Union Park and a source of stability within a quickly changing world.

These are on-going programs, and applications can be submitted at any time. The Association will continue to present these awards at future General Meetings of the Association. **Eligibility Requirements: All applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements.**

For the Half Century Residence Award: The resident must have lived in one house continuously for 50 years in the Union Park Neighborhood.

For the Neighborhood Star Award: The resident must have lived continuously for 50 years in several houses in the Union Park Neighborhood

For the Silver Star Award: The resident must have lived in the same house in the Union Park Neighborhood that was occupied by his/her parents, grandparents, children or grandchildren for 50 years straight.

Applicant must reside at this house at the time of application.

House must be within UPNA boundaries, which are: The south side of Hull Ave. on the north, the railroad tracks on the east, the north side of Washington Ave. on the south, and the Des Moines River and the east side of Second Ave. on the west.

Absence for military service can be counted toward the fifty years if the resident returned to the same house

The purpose of these Awards are to recognize continuous residence. If you think special circumstances warrant an exception, please explain why.

Applicant need not be a member of the Union Park Neighborhood Association

Applicant’s signature, which is required, authorizes the publication of the applicant’s name in the Association’s newsletter.

All decisions of the Award Committee will be final.

Half Century Residence, Silver Star & Neighborhood Star Award Application

Please print or type this application Names will appear on the recognition certificates exactly as they appear on this application.

Today’s Date _____ Phone number _____ Year your residence in the house began _____

Name _____

Address _____ Des Moines, IA Zip+4 _____

If residence in the house is non-continuous, list years not at house and explain why

If known, date of home’s construction _____ Were you first occupant? (Not required) _____

Please list the addresses and the time of your continuous residence in Union Park, OR, the address of you family home, its occupants, and their time of residence. _____

If an ancestor resided at this property, list name(s) and relationship _____

Would you be willing to be interviewed? _____ Other Comments _____

Signature _____ Please Mail to: Union Park Neighborhood Association, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402

City of Des Moines 2009 SCRUB DAYS

The Public Works Department, in cooperation with the Des Moines Neighbors and the Neighborhood Revitalization Board, has worked to schedule a number of SCRUB'S (Spring Cleanup to Remove Urban Blight) . This year, the Public Works Department will continue 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. Also 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 www.dm.gov.

Scrub Guidelines

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

Hours: Neighborhood SCRUB: 7 AM to Noon

MWA's Metro Transfer Station and the Metro Compost Center : 7 AM to 1 PM

Note: Metro Waste Authority's Metro Transfer Station and the Metro Compost Center are NOT open to the public, Except on Saturday SCRUB day events.

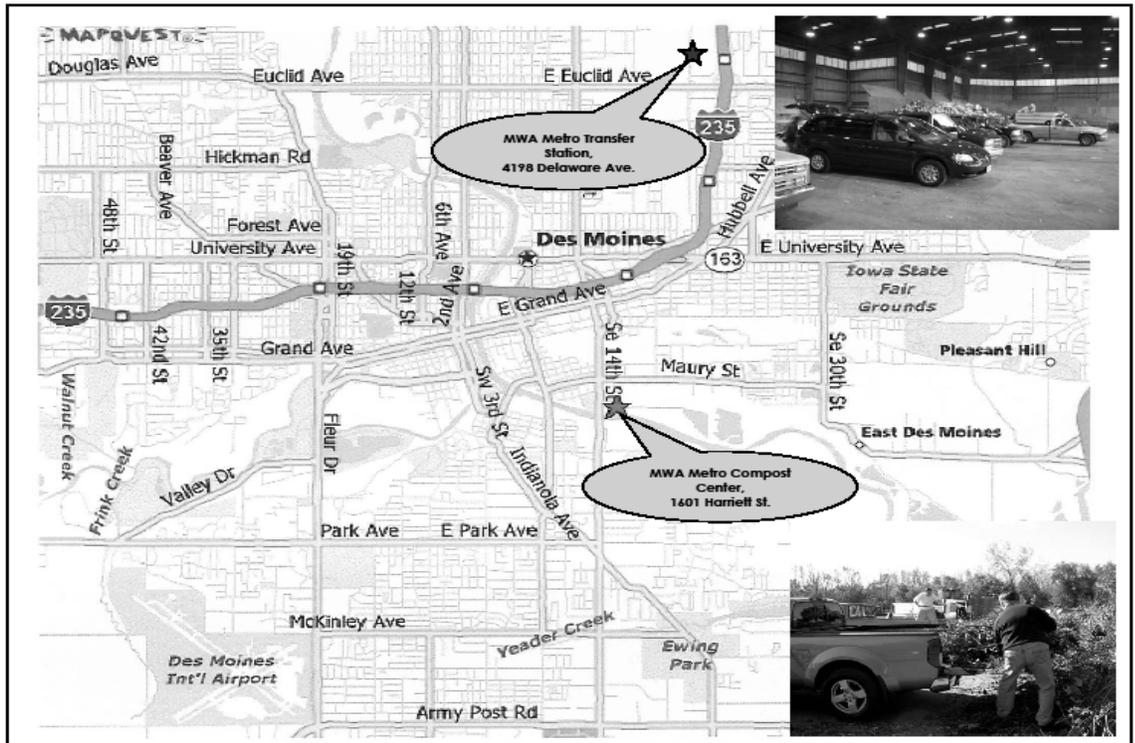
SCRUB Items Allowed: Trash containers, general trash including furniture, lawn mowers without fluids, TV's, computers, tires (any size, on or off rim), Appliances: **NO CHARGE THIS YEAR**, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, dehumidifiers, furnaces, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, etc.

SCRUB Items Not Allowed: Car batteries, propane tanks, oil, paint or other toxic or hazardous chemicals. Call Metro Waste Authority's Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste at 967-5512 to dispose of these items.

All yard waste will need to be hauled to the MWA Metro Compost Center at 1601 Harriett ST. No yard waste accepted at neighborhood SCRUB sites.

Saturday Dates Both Sites are Open

- May 16
- June 20
- July 18
- August 15
- September 19
- October 17
- October 31



Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE
Spring General Meeting
May 19, 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.

All memberships renew on January 1st.

I am interested in:

*Helping with the Lawn of the Week Program

*Having my house on the Home Tour

*Serving on the Steering Committee

*Helping with Jazz in July

*Assisting with the Newsletter

*Helping with Rendezvous on Riverview

*Helping plant trees and flowers

*Helping with water station for Dam to Dam

*Helping on UPNA's Home Tour

More information on _____
