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## Fall General Meeting

**Thursday, October 22nd at 7:00 PM**  
**Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur Ave**

The UPNA Fall General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 22nd at 7:00 PM at the Union Park Baptist Church, 821 Arthur AVE.

Guest Speakers will be Holly Olson and David Dunn. Holly Olson is the Executive Director of Neighborhood Finance Corporation and will talk about changes at NFC, specifically that houses can get NFC financing again if it has been over 10 years since the last time a grant was received. David Dunn is a Neighborhood Planner, with the City of Des Moines. He will talk about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Last spring the City of Des Moines announced a \$3.9 million grant to be used between April of 2009 and September 2010 for foreclosed and abandoned homes. The goal is to identify homes that can be resold or demolish eyesores that are beyond repair.

Also on the agenda is the presentation of Lawn of the Week Awards and election of UPNA officers. For maps & directions to the Union Park Baptist Church, go to <http://www.upbcdesmoines.com/>

Hope to see you there!

[www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com) - Visit our website for news, information, agendas, past newsletters, calendars and t-shirts.

# Rendezvous On Riverview: Great Success!

Rendezvous on Riverview was a new event this past summer. It was brought to you by TPAN (The Parks Area Neighborhoods) which consists of Union, Highland and Oak Park Neighborhood Associations and Riverview Nature Island. The event was held each Friday in June and the first Friday of July at Riverview Island located at the end of Corning Ave, West of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Each week featured a different live band. Food, pop, beer and wine was available and admis-

sion was free! This was a great way to kick-off a summer weekend, and the attendance each week was fantastic.

Even with a little rain neighbors still came out with their umbrellas to have a great time!

Rendezvous on Riverview will be back next summer with more dates and more great bands. Hope to see you there!



## Pillar Restoration

At the southeast corner of Union Park at East 9<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson, are four brick pillars that defined the early entrance to the Park. The pillars have become the icon of the Neighborhood. This Spring, UPNA received a grant to restore and preserve the pillars and you may have noticed the work that

went on at that location. This was the first phase of the Pillar Restoration Project. Tuck pointing and restoration of the brick and foundation have been completed. The next phase will be to have a landscape architect provide a design for to take that corner of the park back to its original grandeur. Im-

plementation of the design will be funded by applying for additional grants in the years to come. A meeting to review the pillar design and have input on with the architect will be on November 12 from 7 to 8:30. The details and location will be announced at the Fall General Meeting.





## How to Contact the City of Des Moines

If you have concerns about a problem in your neighborhood or have a question regarding city services and you're not sure who to call, the Information Center can help. Problems are reported to the appropriate city department with a follow-up date. If you'd like a report on the resolution or status of your request, just tell them your name and email address and they will contact you.

**How to Contact:** You can either call at (515) 283-4500 or email us at [info@dmgov.org](mailto:info@dmgov.org).

**Where Located:** The Information Center is located in the main lobby at City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

**Hours of Operation:** Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. but you can leave a voicemail message and they'll take care of reporting your concern on the next regular business day.

### Broken /Missing Toter Carts –

The Toter carts that we put our garbage and recyclables in are handy but sometime they get damaged or “disappear”. These carts have a 10 year warranty and will be fixed or replaced at no cost. Call the City of Des Moines Information Center at (515) 283-4500 and they will send someone out. Any one can call in a missing or damaged Toter. **DO THIS NOW!** Make a note of the numbers on the front of your Toter carts. When your Toter cart comes up missing, the police will want those numbers so you can file a stolen property report. It also makes it easier for the City to replace your cart.

### SCRUB

There are two more SCRUB days left on the schedule for the season. October 17<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> from 7 AM to 1 PM. On these days you may take your refuse to the MWA's Metro Transfer Station at 4198 Delaware Avenue and yard waste to the Metro Compost Center at 1601 Harriet Street.

### Reporting street lights

It may surprise you that City crews do not automatically take care of, or notice streetlight that are not functioning properly. It requires Citizen involvement. Streetlights are the responsibility of MidAmerican Energy, but the City pays for a streetlight whether it is functioning or not. And a streetlight that stays on all day is just wasting energy that we all end up paying for.

If you see a streetlight that is out, stays on during the day or blinks on and off, call 800-799-4443 or report on line at [www.midamericanenergy.com](http://www.midamericanenergy.com). Be prepared to provide the location, address or intersection and any specifics that will help them repair the light. You may also report the problem under the City of Des Moines website at: <http://www.dmgov.org> under “Reporting Problems”.

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## This and That

We welcome our new Neighborhood Based Delivery Services Police Officer Sgt. Larina Blad. A few months ago she was injured by a vehicle while questioning a suspect. She returned to work shortly after the incident, but recently has had to take some time off for further recovery. We are keeping her in our thoughts and wish her a speedy recovery so she can continue to keeping our neighborhood safe.

The Union Park Churches Annual Thanksgiving Service is November 24.

Margaret Swanson, a long time resident and community leader and UPNA founder turned 90 recently. I think she would still enjoy your acknowledgment of her birthday and especially your memories of how she contributed to the quality of the neighborhood.

Yearly UPNA Dues are now due in January – Paul Cole reminds us that dues are due the first of the year now. Dues are \$10 for membership.

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## UPNA

### Meeting Invitation

The Union Park Neighborhood Association holds a Spring and Fall General Meeting. We also have monthly steering committee meetings that are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Meetings start at 7:00 pm at Grand View college 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!

## 2010 Calendars and T-Shirts

UPNA has sold historic calendars and T-shirts the past two years as a fundraiser. We are currently working on the design for our 2010 calendar and have some t-shirts still available. If interested in purchasing please contact a steering committee member or watch our website for updates. [www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)

## Des Moines Trick or Treat - Beggars Night

**Friday, October 30th - 6 to 8 pm**

### Halloween Safety Tip

Welcome trick-or-treaters at home by turning on your exterior lights.

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

Involve students from a local college or university or "older children" in the neighborhood to be "witch's helpers". These people will help trick-or-treaters cross the streets and watch for any ghoulish behavior.

Drive slowly all evening -you never know what creatures may suddenly cross your path.

Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your local police department.

Younger children should be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Set a time limit for children to trick-or-treat. Together, map out a safe route so you know where they will be.

Remind them not to take short cuts through back-yards, alleys, or playing fields.

Remind kids not to enter a stranger's house or car.

Try to get kids to trick-or-treat while it is still light outside. If it is dark, make sure children are carrying a flashlight and wearing reflective clothing.

Check that costumes are flame-retardant so the little ones aren't in danger near candle-lit jack-o'-lanterns and other fire hazards.

Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes. And try wearing make-up instead of masks; masks can be hot and uncomfortable and can obstruct a child's view.

Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape or stickers on their costumes to increase their visibility.

Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or substantial snack beforehand.

Inspect all the treats at home in a well-lit place.

What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in their original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything all at once or they could feel pretty ghoulish for a while.



## Jazz in July Event

About 500 people were entertained by the Soft Jazz sounds from the Jason Daniels Trio at the East Shelter in Union Park on Sunday July 26, 2009 from 5 to 7. This Jazz in July was the third jazz event sponsored by UPNA.

This year, everyone enjoyed the free ice cream, cookies, cold water and lemonade refreshments and hospitality provided by UPNA.

Although the first couple of musical sets began with out a drummer because his car conked out, it didn't take long for this professional group to get into their groove once the drummer and his equipment was rescued by two UPNA members. We look forward to doing it all again when we are awarded with another Jazz in July event by the Metro Arts Alliance.



## Polk Board of Supervisors Recognition of Jack Daugherty

At the regular meeting of the Polk County Board of Supervisors on March 31, 2009, Chair Person Angela Connolly presented Jack Daugherty with the Polk County Commendation for his work and dedication to the organization. This is the first time the Commendation has ever been awarded. In her comments, Angela recognized Jack for the

outstanding service and assistance he provided during and following the floods of 2008 to the Union Park and Birdland areas. She said this is just one example of how he is making a difference in our community. He brought residents together for a common goal and successfully accomplished the reconstruction of the neighborhoods. Jack met personally with each

flood victim several times, and facilitated meetings with the city, county and state officials to make sure the recovery stayed on track. She also noted Jack's efforts to get the work done on the levee in a timely manner to ensure these areas are protected in the future.

## Disasters Can Strike Anytime, Anywhere

Here are some things to do to be prepared:

1. Find out what could happen to you – what disasters are most likely to happen. What are the disaster plans for your work and schools.
2. Create a Home Disaster Plan. Write it down. Discuss it with your family. Know how to evacuate your home from several different ways. Pick two places your family can meet outside. Agree on a contact person who lives outside of the area that the family knows to contact to relay in-

formation if the family gets separated. Plan how to take care of your pets.

3. Put together an Emergency Supply Kit and keep it in an easy to reach place. Assemble one for each member of the family. Plan for three days without any kind of help from anyone. Include a change of clothes, battery operated radio, flashlight, prescriptions, extra pair of eye glasses, important family documents, water and food that won't spoil, specialty items for infants, elderly or disabled family members. Keep a

smaller kit in the trunk of your car. Have a kit for your pets too.

4. Practice your home disaster plan at least once a year, renew the contents of the emergency supply kits and conduct a "hazards hunt" while replacing smoke alarm batteries. Know how to shut off the gas, electricity and water.

For more information, contact the American Red Cross 2116 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312 phone 515-243-7681 <http://www.desmoines-redcross.org/>.



# 2009 Lawn of the Week Awards

Congratulations to the 13 recipients of the 2009 Lawn of the Week Awards (LOWA). Marilyn Fors-Roby, our LOWA Coordinator had some very gorgeous lawns to choose from this year. She visited 13 lawns and awarded the owners with the familiar Green and White sign for one week each.

We hope that all of the winners will attend the Fall General Meeting so that we may congratulate them in person. Marilyn has taken pictures of each lawn and will present a slide show that show cases these best examples of neighborhood stewardship. The winners will receive an award certificate and a gift certificate to Goode's Greenhouse. We want to extend a big THANK YOU to Marilyn Fors-Roby! Those of

us who have been in her shoes know how much work it is to keep the Lawn of the Week Award going and making it a success!

## The following received the LOWA this year:

- 4-28 Dave & Mary Johnson  
1917 E. 12th
- 5-31 Helen Woolems  
2411 E. 9th
- 6-09 Adria Duffield Brown  
1625 E. 12th
- 6-25 Bill & Betty Miller  
1421 Morton
- 7-01 Sally Lawson  
2717 Cambridge
- 7-05 Bill & Diane Johnson-Schaefer  
703 Arthur
- 7-12 Herman & Linda Johnson  
2907 Sampson
- 7-19 Martha Ollie  
300 E. Holcomb

- 7-26 DeAnn Fredericks  
1443 Jefferson
- 8-09 Jeff and Patty Turner  
2011 E. 13th
- 8-09 Marilyn Knop  
1424 York
- 8-17 Arturo Quintero  
227 E. Holcomb
- 9-08 Paul & Naomi Johnson  
909 Thompson



# National Night Out

This year, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Union Park United Methodist Church at 2305 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, invited about 300 homes in their immediate neighborhood to a cookout, games, and music in their parking lot for National Night Out.

Donations for the Food Bank were accepted and Des Moines Police Department sent representatives. The goals of National Night Out, include heighten crime and drug

prevention, support for anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and partnerships between the community and police and to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The Church wanted the area to see them as a partner in the neighborhood and a welcoming place to worship. From all indications, the night was a success.

## 2009 Alice Rodine Recognition Awards

Each year neighborhoods are asked to nominate one business, volunteer or city employee that demonstrates outstanding leadership in the community for the Alice Rodine Award. The award is sponsored by the Des Moines Neighbors, a coalition of neighborhood associations, in memory of Alice Rodine, a long time Union Park area resident and neighborhood activist.

This year, UPNA nominated Union Park Health Services, at 2401 E 8<sup>th</sup> Street, for the Alice

Rodine Award for the business category.

Members of the UPHS, specifically, Patrick Quigley, Mike Hopson & Holly Merk, have all attended UPNA Steering Committee meetings and have partnered and participated in ways that demonstrates they are dedicated to the neighborhood which they serve.

In 2007 UPHS brought Jazz in July to the Union Park area and over 400 people attended. For

that event, UPHS partnered with UPNA and area churches as well as Broadlawns Hospital. In 2008, UPHS partnered with UPNA to bring another Jazz event to Union Park, which turned into a Flood Relief Benefit.

UPHS is a facility we are proud to have in our neighborhood, as an attractive and well maintained facility that serves residents close to the Union Park area.

## Movies in the Park

September was the month for free outdoor movies in Union Park. The movies in Union Park started last year because Grays Lake was not available and it was so popular that UPNA lobbied the City to get the movies to come back this

year. The movies were family friendly and were shown in the south section of Union Park. Concessions were available and also portable facilities and hand washing stations, along with lots of trash receptacles. This activity proves to be a popular

and appropriate use of the park and we thank the crews who helped set up, clean up and tear down every Saturday to provide this entertainment opportunity to the public. UPNA will continue to ask for the movies to be brought back next year.

## Home and Garden Tour

The Sixth Annual UPNA Home and Garden Tour was June 20<sup>th</sup>. This was our most successful year ever with over 110 paid participants. Also a big "thank you" to all the volunteers who helped make it a success. Four homes and one garden were featured on this year's tour:

Joe Lawler & Berkleigh Mostrom – 1711 East 8<sup>th</sup> ST

Jim & Kristan Moran – 2007 East 9<sup>th</sup> ST

Luis & Carmen Gonzales - 1803 East 13<sup>th</sup> ST

The Gabriel House - 1701 Pennsylvania AVE

James & Mary Johnson – 1917 E 12 ST (garden)

We look forward to having another successful tour next year. Please consider allowing us to feature your home or garden on the 2010 Home and Garden Tour. And we are always looking for volunteers to help staff the homes on the tour.

Union Park Neighborhood Association  
PO BOX 16113  
Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE  
Fall General Meeting  
October 22, 7PM  
Union Park Baptist Church

BECOME A MEMBER / SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

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:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with the Lawn of the Week Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Having my house on the Home Tour     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on the Steering Committee         | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with Jazz in July            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with the Newsletter             | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with Rendezvous on Riverview |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping plant trees and flowers           | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with _____                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping on UPNA's Home Tour               |   |

More information on \_\_\_\_\_

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