

# UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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## Fall General Meeting

Thursday, October 27<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM

Union Park Baptist Church 821 Arthur AVE

The UPNA Fall General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 27<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Union Park Baptist Church, 821 Arthur AVE. We are planning on four guest speakers. Mandy Borst, is a member of Ameri-Corps at Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines. Ed Linebach will talk about a new Athletic and Development Center at North High School called Dynamic Sports YOU, Inc. Pat Kozitka with the Des Moines Public Works Department will talk to us about the sewer separation project and snow ordinances. City Councilman Bob Mahaffey will talk to us about the DART Forward 2035 Transportation Plan. And we will introduce our new NBSD Officer, Scott Baker.

Also on the agenda will be an update on the year's accomplishments and election of officers. For maps & directions to the Union Park Baptist Church, go to <http://www.upbcdesmoines.com/>

## Neighborhood of the Year Award

The Union Park Neighborhood Association will receive Neighborhood of the Year Award at the East Des Moines Chamber Fall Celebration of Progress dinner on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Valley View Village 2571 Guthrie AVE. Also to be honored as Neighbor of the Year is Mr. Bill Eisenlauer of the Real Estate Eisenlauer Team. The dinner will take place at Valley View Village, 2571 Guthrie AVE.

Each fall, the East Des Moines Chamber hosts the Celebration of Progress to showcase new and upcoming commercial developments on the East Side, to celebrate the success of Chamber member businesses, and to raise funds for annual scholarships given to East High, North High and Grand View University students. The event celebrates the community spirit in East Des Moines by recognizing the outstanding contributions of its volunteers and neighborhoods.

*by Marsha Steele, UPNA Co-Chair*

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

## Keeping up with technology

If you use a computer, let me introduce you to some of the ways UPNA is attempting to expand beyond traditional methods of keeping touch with our community. Several years ago, Union Park Neighborhood Association “entered the digital age” by establishing a website and e-mail address. Although the webpage itself requires constant change to keep it fresh and accurate, it is still the place to go to find out about our mission, awards programs, officers, newsletters, meetings and so on. On the left hand side of the “Home Page” of our website is a “Twitter Feed” that provides current events and quick information and links to timely information. The links are safe to click on, so do not be afraid of them.

What is a “Twitter Feed”? We also have joined a “social network” called Twitter. Our Twitter address is @unionparkdsm. Twitter allows peo-

ple to chat, or communicate short bursts of information of 140 words or less. Anything we post on our Twitter automatically shows up on our Webpage in the “Twitter Feed”. You do not need to join Twitter to read our Twitter feed, but it is easy to join Twitter. Simply search the internet with a search engine such as “Google” for “Twitter” and follow the instructions to join. It requires you to create a password and provide a minimum of information such as an e-mail address which you do not need to share with everyone. If you are intimidated, by Twitter, you may do like I did and ask someone to help you with it. Once you have your own Twitter address you can “follow” other people. You can control who is following you.

UPNA also started a Facebook page. Facebook is another “social media” that allows people to chat, express ideas, post pictures, and more. The

Union Park Facebook page is constantly updated with events and happenings of the UPNA area and pictures of our Pillars project, the 2011 Jazz in July, old postcards and maps. Again, we have set it up so anything posted on our Facebook page shows up on Twitter as well as our website “Twitter Feed”. Again, you do not need to be a member of Facebook to see our postings on our website Twitter Feed. If you decide you want to register to join Facebook, but you are not comfortable doing it by yourself, ask someone to help you. A friend will help you limit the amount of information you provide or is shared. Then you can join a conversation, “friend” our Facebook page or “like” a conversation. Facebook has gotten some bad raps. Most issues have been fixed or allow you to personalize your Facebook.

*By Paul Sadler, Editor*

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rollin Relic's

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rollin Relic's “Cruise to the Carousel Car Show” which benefits the Heritage Carousel, was held on Sunday, August 28th, 2011. Light rain held off until most of the 164 cars had been registered.

Scott Mitchell received the 2011 Carousel Choice Award with his 1979 Ford Pinto Wagon Cruising Package.

UPNA sponsored a \$50 prize which went to a late 1950's Studebaker, 2-door Hawk whose owners were very happy to received the award.

This event was another “banner year” and the car owners and attending fans were very happy with the day's turnout, according to Steve Klinkefoose, Rollin Relics' car club member and former event chair. For photos from the show, go to

[www.heritagecarousel.org/photos/cruisell.html](http://www.heritagecarousel.org/photos/cruisell.html)

The Rollin Relics Car Club organizes and hosts the event to raise money for the Heritage Carousel - specifically to offset ticket prices so the \$.50 per ride rate for children can be maintained. Funds also go toward the painting / upkeep of the carousel animals. The amount of this year's donation will be announced at the club's November 7th meeting, where they will present a check to the Carousel's Foundation. In total Rollin Relics has raised well over \$20,000 for the Carousel in the past 11 years. The car club is the largest single private benefactor to the Carousel.

Over 50 Club members volunteered to work at the event, selling conces-

sions and handling numerous auction items.

Rollin Relics will begin planning for next year's car show in Union Park in a few months; the likely date will be after the State Fair and before Labor Day. Stay tuned.

Rollin Relics also sponsors a Festival of Lights Tree - often with a 50's theme. Last year's tree raised more than \$7,000.

If you want to learn more about the car club or get involved with their car show in Union Park, please contact Pat Schmidt, [stodelake@aol.com](mailto:stodelake@aol.com), 515-979-6060 or write to P.O. box 806, Des Moines, Iowa 50301.

*by Marsha Steele, UPNA Co-Chair*

## 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!

## Beggars Night

"Beggars Night" in Des Moines is traditionally October 30<sup>th</sup> between 6 to 8 PM on the night before Halloween night. And, unlike everywhere else, the little goblins will tell bad jokes to earn their treats.

Local history has it that this tradition started in the 1930's. Halloween had turned into a night of mischief such as soaping windows, ringing door bells, egging, turning over outhouses and dumping refuse in streets. But some youngsters tried to out-do what they had done the year before to include setting fires, theft and destruction of property. The chaos was getting out of hand and this became a huge problem for the police and a worry for all homeowners. Halloween had become more about thugs and vandalism than about costumes and candy.

The City's Director of Recreation at that time was determined to turn that around and started a campaign to make Halloween into a night of innocent fun. The first thing was to proclaim "Beggars Night" on the night before Halloween and make the kids work for their treats. Apparently it took some time and the backing of community groups and members of law enforcement but she was successful. During World War II, the appeal to behave oneself on Beggar Night turned patriotic and children were admonished not to help the enemy by wasting resources and acting like saboteurs. "Beggars Night" is unique to Des Moines and it is not done like this anywhere else.

Welcome Beggars to your home by turning on your exterior lights.

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

If you choose to hand out candy, it should be in its original wrappers.

Non-food items such as pencils, novelty pens or change are acceptable.

Homemade goodies and fruit is suspected by parents and often tossed.

Require the little Beggars to perform for their treats, but above all, have fun with it.

## Des Moines Police officer, Phoukham Tran

During the Iowa State Fair, Des Moines Police officer, Phoukham Tran, was struck down by a drunk driver while directing traffic and assisting people crossing the street and was severely injured. A spaghetti dinner benefit was held for him on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the AMVETS Post 2, 2818 5<sup>TH</sup> AVE. Members of Officer Tran's family and his best friend, SPO Doua Lor spoke. A video was shown of Tran going through a difficult but heroic rehabilitation. The benefit was well attended and covered by the ma-

mor TV stations. Hopefully Officer Tran will be back home with his family by October 15<sup>th</sup> to continue his rehab. He is an inspiration!

A special assistance fund for Officer Phoukham Tran and his family has been set up at the Des Moines Police Officer's Credit Union. If you would like to make a donation, take or mail it to the Des Moines Police Officer's Credit Union at 423 E. Court Avenue 50309. You may also contact the credit union at 243-2677.



## Union Park Pillars

Union Park Neighborhood Association has completed phase two of our pillar restoration project. Here you see the before and after photos. Phase one consisted of repairs to the four brick pillars in the Southeast corner of Union Park at the intersection of E 9<sup>th</sup> & Jefferson. Phase 2 consisted of constructing a round planter as well as decorative concrete paving around the planter.

We are very thankful to our partners who have made this possible. The City of Des Moines Park & Rec. Department has provided funding of both phases through the Streetscape Grant program. All of the folks at Park & Rec. have been very helpful from the beginning to

the end. Teva Dawson and Mindy Moore helped us with the grant paperwork and administration while Mike Gaul helped coordinate things on site before and during construction.

Angela Connolly, our Polk County Supervisor secured a large amount of funding for phase two through a Polk County Board of Supervisors Community Development Grant. Thanks to that significant grant, we were able to do this work in a single phase rather than two separate phases.

Confluence worked with us patiently (and for a very economical fee) over the course of several months to provide the superb design that is evocative of the original

planter that was located in this area in the last century but had since been removed.

Jordison Construction was our contractor and they did a great job of constructing this technically challenging piece of concrete work. They worked quickly and efficiently and the quality is better than we even expected was possible.

Thank you all for helping the Neighborhood Association complete this very important project. It will stand for many generations and add to the beauty of Union Park. This is one of the many reasons why we all love the Union Park Neighborhood and the City of Des Moines.

*By Jack Daugherty, UPNA Co-chair*



This is what the corner of E 9<sup>th</sup> & Jefferson looked like before we started phase 2 of the Pillar Restoration project.



## Jazz in July in Union Park

Union Park Neighborhood Association's Jazz in July was Sunday, July 10th. Whole families brought lawn chairs and their pets to hear the jazz trio *Workshop* on the lawn near the East Shelter on Thompson Avenue in Union Park.

This was UPNA's fifth free jazz concert in a row, thanks to a Community Betterment Grant from the

Polk County Supervisors and our sponsor, Neighborhood Finance Corp. (NFC). To make the day even better, the Heritage Carousel gave free rides during the 2 hour concert thanks to the sponsorship of U.S. Bank.

Union Park Neighborhood Association provided free drinks and cookies and ice cream from Kaleidoscoops.

Ice cream novelties, cotton candy and candied apples were available for purchase from a mobile vendor.

It was a beautiful day, even if it was a little hot, but that is what you expect in Iowa in July! We look forward to doing it again next year.

*by Marsha Steele, UPNA Co-Chair*

## Prepping Fido for a Disaster

September is Family Preparedness Month in Iowa. HSEMD would like to remind you not to forget about your pets when preparing for an emergency.

When we go on a trip and can't take our pets, we make arrangements for a kennel, friend or family member to care for them. The same care and planning should take place for emergencies. Make your dogs, cats and other animals part of your family emergency plan. After all, they're a part of your family!

If the need arises for you to evacuate your home, you should bring your pets with you if possible. If you need to stay in a shelter for any period of time, however, be aware that most shelters do not accept pets.

### Make a plan for your pet

- Prepare a list of hotels, kennels, friends and family members outside your immediate area where your pet may be able to stay in an emergency.
- Determine which neighbors, friends or relatives can care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be sure they know where

your pet's emergency supply kit is located. Designate locations where you would be able to meet in an emergency: one close to your home and one outside your immediate area.

- Talk to your veterinarian about what you should have available for your pet in case of an emergency. Gather names and contact information for vets or veterinary hospitals outside your immediate area.
- Microchip your pet. Make sure you keep your emergency contact information up to date. It can be an invaluable way of reuniting with your pet in case you are separated.
- Bring current photos and details about your pets that could help locate them if missing.

### Build an emergency kit for your pet

- Pets, like humans, should have at least a three-day supply of food and water
- Medications your pet is taking, including directions for administering them

- Current vaccination records
- Small toys or items that may make your pet feel more comfortable in an unfamiliar setting
- Pet carrier

Disasters and emergencies of all kinds can strike anywhere at any time. For more preparedness information, visit [www.BeReady.Iowa.gov](http://www.BeReady.Iowa.gov).

*Article from the September 23, 2011 Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Secure & Prepared Newsletter.*



## History of Union Park Neighborhood Association

The City of Des Moines has 58 organized neighborhood associations, with Union Park Neighborhood Association being one of them. To be one of these neighborhoods, a group of neighbors have to get together and navigate the City bureaucracy. Essentially, if a neighborhood does everything it is told, they eventually get to be called a "Charter Neighborhood". Union Park Neighborhood is a Charter Neighborhood and it something we are proud of and do not take lightly. Many neighborhoods have not achieved that distinction.

For UPNA, it started in 1988 with a

group of people who started from scratch. Margaret Swanson, Fred Gay, Bill Ritchie, Bill Horstman and Harold McMurray are just a few of our founding fathers. They met frequently to hash out boundaries, elect officers, write by-laws and finally they made an application to the City. In 1991, UPNA became a "Designated Neighborhood" and community input went into an "Action Plan" that was developed. In 1993 the plan was approved and we became a "Recognized Neighborhood". In 1997 we became a "Chartered Neighborhood" because we had made acceptable progress in carrying out our plan. We continue to work on improving the

neighborhood, as evidenced by the improvement to the old walking entrance to Union Park. Our next opportunity is the Birdland neighborhood when it is fully protected from flooding, and we are working with City staff on the possibilities.

Other neighborhoods have gone through the same process to become Chartered Neighborhoods. To the north of UPNA at Hull Avenue is the Highland Park Neighborhood. To the south at East Washington is the Capitol Park Neighborhood.

*By Paul Sadler, Editor*

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## Half Century Residence Award / Neighborhood Star and Silver Star Awards

Awards programs sponsored by the Union Park Neighborhood Association recognize neighbors who have lived in the same house or in the neighborhood for fifty years or more.

The purpose of these programs is 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.

Applications may be obtained from our website or by contacting any of the officers and may be submitted at any time. The Awards are presented at General Meetings of the Association.

### 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.

The 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. These awards are intended to recognize continuous residence in the same house. If you think special circumstances warrant an exception, please explain why.

Applicant need not be a member of the Union Park Neighborhood Association. The applicant's signature is required to authorize the publication of the applicant's name in the association's newsletter. All decisions of the Award Committee will be final.

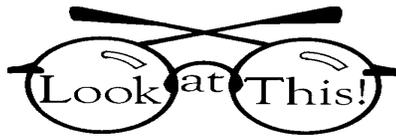
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## Newsletters "Electronically"

UPNA does a lot of communicating by e-mail. We are starting a process of moving away from four mailings of hard copies of newsletters each year. The cost of paper, printing and mailing is becoming prohibitive. The sheer amount of work of collating, folding, stamping labeling and preparing a newsletter for a mailing is a burden and volunteers are hard to come by. Some people prefer to receive their newsletters "electronically" rather than by mail. It is unlikely we will ever be able to move entirely away from mailing newsletters, but in 2012 we will begin to move in that direction. For our members, who do not use a computer, or need a hard copy, we will continue to send them by mail.

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## This and That:



We are pleased to introduce our new Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Officer, D. Scott Baker, Senior Police Officer. Officer Baker is a 21 year veteran of the Des Moines Police Department and lived for a while in the Union Park area. If you need his assistance, please call him on his cell at 515-205-2524 or e-mail him at [DSBaker@dmgov.org](mailto:DSBaker@dmgov.org)

The Union Park Presbyterian Church celebrated the opening of Thompson Ave in front of their Church with ice cream on Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>. Friends and neighbors near the church were invited to join them. Although the street was still closed at the time, we admire their optimism.

Des Moines Parks and Recreation again provided their Free Movies in Union Park in September. Two weekends had to be cancelled but the turnout for the remaining weekends was strong and the weather cooperated.

The Community of Christ Central Congregation at 1645 Pennsylvania AVE, Des Moines is celebrating Halloween on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>. Games, treats, surprises for all. Wear your favorite costume. Bring a Friend. Watch their signs for more information or call 265-1367 or 265-4244.

National Night Out was held August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the United Methodist parking lot 2305 E 12th ST. It was one of the hottest nights of the year, but that didn't stop some 100 people from en-

joying the FREE food, games, and activities for kids, including a train, and even a DJ and a dunk tank. National Night out is America's Celebration against crime! Representatives from various City departments and other organizations, including Polk County Supervisor Hockensmith and Officer Baker stopped by to mingle.

UPNA welcomes Parks Area Family Physicians to the neighborhood. They moved from their old location, added two new physicians and re-opened August 1st in their new facility at 2301 E 14th ST. They now have seven physicians on staff and are very busy. An Open house was August 11<sup>th</sup>. Hours are 8 am to 8 pm Mondays through Saturdays.

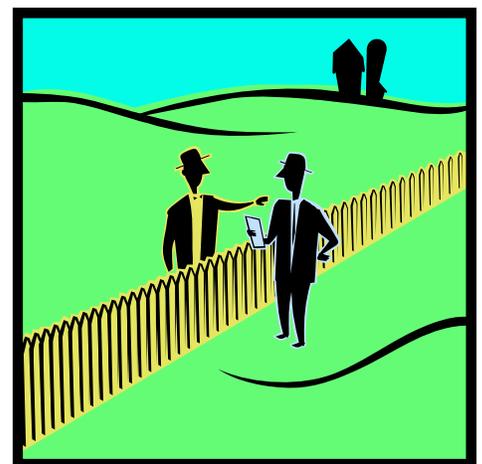
More information  
[www.iowahealth.org](http://www.iowahealth.org)

The Rocket Slide in Union Park is freshly painted and ready for fun. New materials were laid down around the bottom of the slide to minimize injury due to falls. The Rocket Slide turned 40 in July and probably the last example of that type of playground equipment.

All dogs and cats 6 months old and over must be licensed and are due January 1st of each year. Additional penalty fee is added after March 31. Unlicensed cats and dogs may be ticketed. There is a limit of six (6) dogs/cats per household; with not more than 3 being dogs, however, you may request a waiver for a fourth dog if it meets certain requirements. For additional information, please email [CityClerk@dmgov.org](mailto:CityClerk@dmgov.org) or call (515) 283-4209. A printable license Application form is available on line at <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/CityClerk/PDF/AnimalLicenseApplication.pdf>

Clowns at the Carousel on August 7<sup>th</sup> had a good attendance - estimated at about 1000 people - and cars were parked everywhere in Union Park. The weather cooperated for a great event. Free rides were provided by Mercy Children's Center and the Des Moines Carousel Foundation. 400 children's bike helmets were fitted and given away. There was a Safety Fair, inflatable games, music, clowning and clown show and food & drink.

Five more neighborhood associations have petitioned the Des Moines City Council to participate the Des Moines Public Work's new "Priority Snow Streets" program. It requires a change in the City Ordinance. These five neighborhoods will join the sixteen neighborhoods that were in the program last year, including Union Park, in enjoying faster and cleaner snow removal this winter.



# Union Park Neighborhood Association

PO BOX 16113

Des Moines , IA 50316-9402

TIME VALUE

Fall General Meeting  
Thursday, October 27 at 7:00 pm  
Union Park Baptist Church  
821 Arthur Ave

## BECOME A MEMBER / SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

9-digit zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Form is also available on our website at [www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)

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.

Beginning January 1, 2012 newsletters will be emailed to members

I want to have my newsletter e-mailed to the e-mail address above.

I do not have an email address. Please send my newsletter to my home.

Please send me information about \_\_\_\_\_