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Volume 21 Issue 2

October 2021

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Fall General Meeting

Thursday, October 14 at 7:00 PM

Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House in Birdland Park 2100 Saylor Road

The UPNA Fall General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House in Birdland Park.

Our first guest speaker will be Polk County Supervisor Tom Hockensmith, followed by other elected officials. Please bring a bag of candy to the meeting for the Thompson Treat event.

The Ding Darling Shelter in Birdland Park is located near Guthrie and Saylor Road at 2100 Saylor Road. There is plenty of parking. **Because this is a City of Des Moines facility, masks will be required.**



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www.unionparkdsm.com

Visit our website for news and information.

THOMPSON TREAT – Can you help?

Union Park Neighborhood Association is working with the Spark UP Committee to bring back the Beggars Night event called THOMPSON TREAT. Beggars Night is Saturday, October 30 from 6-8 pm. Each year Thompson Avenue (between E. 14th and Glenbrook) has 200 to 300 Beggars that visit on Beggars Night. We are asking Thompson Avenue neighbors to host a candy site. As a host, we are asking you to turn on your front light and give out treats. We know that requires a lot of treats but we can help by giving you the treats if necessary. For those coming to the October Fall General Meeting, you can help by bringing a bag of candy for the Thompson Treat.

Thompson Residents, if you don't want to actually hand out the treats, can we use your driveway? We have Union Park neighbors who would be happy to sit in your driveway, near the sidewalk to give out treats. All Union Park neighbors can help by donating treats (unopened bags of individually wrapped candy) or getting your lawn chair and passing out treats. If you are interested in helping or learning more about the event please contact one of the following Thompson Avenue Residents:

Pam - 1504 Thompson - 515-262-1170

Steve—1500 Thompson - 614-660-2739 \ Brandon - 1500 Thompson - 515-943-2447

Thompson Treat!



October 30, 2021

We need at least 25 neighbors to turn on their porch light for Beggars' Night! Driveways are also needed for neighbor ambassadors.

You can help by passing out candy, volunteering your driveway, or making a candy donation.

Contact us to volunteer your driveway, to donate, or if you would like extra candy.

Pam Carmichael

515-262-1170

pscarmichael@homeincdsm.org

Sponsored by the Union Park Neighborhood Association

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.

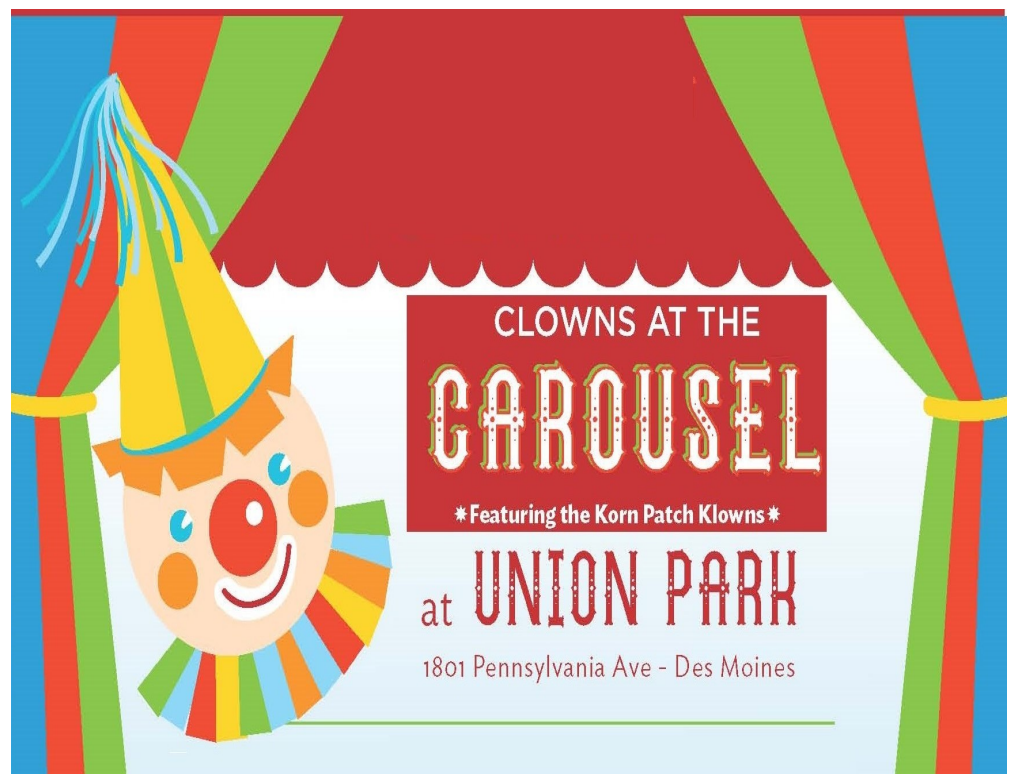
CLOWNS AT THE CAROUSEL

Clowns at the Carousel was Sunday, August 1st from 4:00 to 7:00. "Our 18th Clowns at the Carousel was a success! And what a beautiful day it was!!" said Debbi Cooper (AKA Clickette), organizer of the event. Attendance was down a little from other years, but still a very decent turn out.

A few facts for you: Fifteen clowns performed, 550 free rides to children were given on the Heritage Carousel, and 350 bike helmets were given away. Volunteers handed out 1009 cups of water/lemonade, 60 bottles of water and 56 bottles of Gatorade. They gave out 508 bags of popcorn, 243 cups of yogurt, and 2500 pieces of pizza. The line for snow cones had a long line throughout the day. There were inflatables, Safety Street, music, games, juggling, dancers, stage entertainment and of course, clowns.

After the event was over, Debbi Cooper told her crew of over 30 volunteers "I received nothing but positive comments. Everyone had a great time and thought the event went well. Many of our volunteers said they would definitely be back next year. Don't ever forget how much joy you bring to the children and families who attend."

Thank you to the Korn Patch Klowns, their sponsors and all the volunteers for this annual event. Kids have been enjoying this feature since 2003. Save the date, August 7, 2022, for the next Clowns at the Carousel!



CRUISE TO THE CAROUSEL

The 20th Annual "Cruise to the Carousel" sponsored by the Des Moines Rollin' Relics was Sunday, August 29th at the Heritage Carousel in Union Park. Despite some early morning weather concerns, it turned out to be a great day. A total of 200 cars entered the show and they all were spectacular. The event was well attended and the auction and food sales were fantastic.

Union Park Neighborhood Association sponsored the coveted "Neighborhood Association Award" this year which was awarded to Jack Cleahuaus and his 1921 Ford Model TT. A Model TT was based on the Model T, but with a heavier frame and rear axle and a slightly greater wheelbase, giving it a rating of about 1 ton. It was very durable for the time, but slow at about 15 mph with standard gearing compared to other trucks. The original price was \$600 and it was sold as a chassis with the buyer supplying the body.

A special thanks to Jack Daugherty, T.J. Roberts and Michelle DeLong for choosing this entry for the Neighborhood Award.

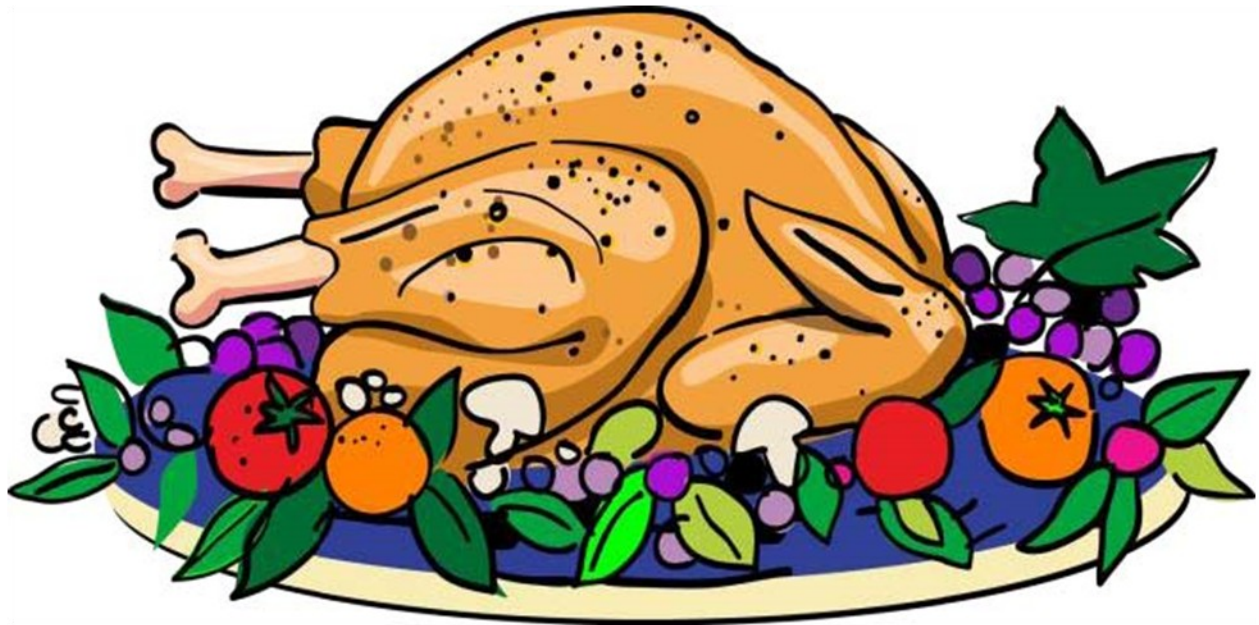
Proceeds from the show support The Heritage Carousel and help keep the rides for children at 50 cents each. Rollin Relics will present the Heritage Carousel with at check at their October 4 meeting. A big "Thank you" to all who supported the show by organizing, entering, donating to the event and/or attending). The Rollin' Relics is the largest annual contributor to the Heritage Carousel.




1921 Ford Model TT owned by Jack Cleahuaus. Winner of 2021 Neighborhood Award


Turkey Dinner at Union Park Grace Fellowship

The Union Park Grace Fellowship Church at 832 Grandview Avenue is having their annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday November 13, 2021 from 4:00 to 6:30. Menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes/ gravy, dressing, green beans, 2 salads, rolls/butter, pie and drink all for \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 5 thru 10. Kids under 4 are free. Meals are also available for carry out and delivery by reserving your meal by calling the church office at 262-4555 or 779-3638 no later than November 10, 2021. The Church is located on the corner of East 9th Street and Grandview Avenue. This is a long time tradition for the UP Grace Fellowship Church. The church is 130 years old and the sanctuary is the original gym for Grand View College. This event is a fundraiser for the church but it also is considered a community outreach. Hope to see you there.





CAPTAIN ROY'S
1900 Saylor Road
at Birdland Marina

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Union Park Presbyterian Church
1307 Thompson Avenue

We invite you to join us for worship on each Sunday, at 10 a.m.

Phone: 266-4700

HUGE !!!

Union Park United Methodist Church

2305 E. 12th Street
(On the corner of E. 12th & Guthrie)



Thursday, October 7th, 10 AM-5 PM

Friday, October 8th, 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday, October 9th, 9 AM-12 PM

**MERCHANDISE INSIDE THE CHURCH
AND
THE GARAGE TOO !!**

Lots of clothing and books, toys and
Other miscellaneous items

Don't miss it!

We will observe all appropriate COVID-19
restrictions. (Masks required!)

For More Info:

Call Union Park United Methodist Church
at 262-3734

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT/BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

The weather could not have been better on August 3rd for the National Night Out (NNO) celebration in the parking lot at the Union Park United Methodist Church (UPUMC). This annual event is hosted by the UPUMC with the support of UPNA. Due to Covid-19, NNO was cancelled last year. Turnout was a little lower than in the past – about 120 attended. All other sites were lower in attendance this year too.

UPUMC does something special with National Night Out by also making it a Back to School Party for the kids. This year 29 back packs with school supplies were given out, much to the delight of many of the kids (and parents).

Des Moines Police and Fire Fighters mingled with everyone and made a special connection with the kids by participating in games with them.

Great food (burgers and hot dogs, popcorn) was provided. Hy-Vee donated the buns. Music was provided by DJs. Games were played with prizes. Thank you to the many hands of UPUMC who volunteered, labored and contributed financially to make this a success. It was covered live on the Channels 8 and 13 News!

Thank you to: Julie Ervin for coordinating the event; Jan Hornocker and the Outreach/Missions Committee members; Kathy Hillman – shopper; Jeff Gift – donations; Dave Clement – Grilling; Dana Clement, Tanya Ausmus, Marge Sparks, Sumi David, Jack Davidson –kitchen; Virgil Hillman & Scot Handley – popcorn; David Bindner & Eric Reidenger – D.J.s; JoAnn Devin, Karen Bason, Shirley McClelland, Lisa Bailey, Sue Strecker, Karen Winterbottom, Bev Everly & Flo Wickstrom – servers; Bill Bentz, Gary Broadston, Virgil Hillman, Chuck Marvin, Reuben David, Steve Weihheimer, Sumi David Jan Birkenbine, Linda Dale & Pastor Ceasar David – setup and Tear down. Pastor David – pictures. And a big thank you to the Des Moines Police Officers and Fire Fighters.

SPARK UP

The Spark UP Committee members have been meeting to work on ways to increase community engagement among the Union Park neighbors. The principles they use to guide them are 1. Engage the wide group of neighbors and 2. Encourage conversation and relationships and fun. Here are some things they are working on:

Thompson Treat (information in this newsletter and watch for more info)

Chili Cook-Off - October 22nd at the home of James and Rachel Riley (2411 E 9th). Chili entries need to be turned in at 6:00 PM. Anonymous voting takes place. Prizes and trophies will be awarded.

Christmas at the Carousel – December 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Refreshments. Santa and Mrs. Clause. Carousel will be open for rides.

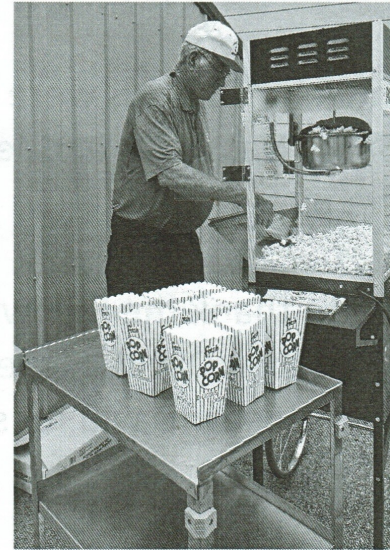
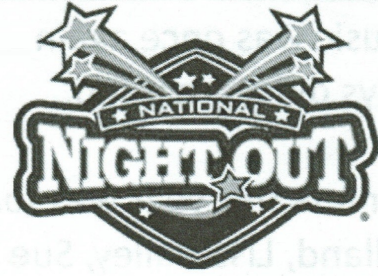
January 2022 - a joint event in Union Park with Friends of Des Moines Parks and Recreation and UPNA

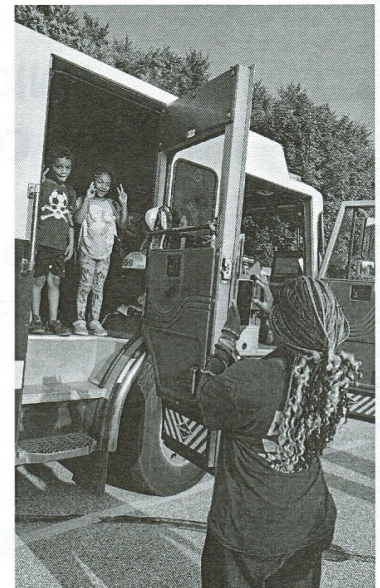
The next Spark UP meeting is October 19th at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in joining the Spark UP Committee or getting involved in implementing the ideas, contact us at info@unionparkdsm.com



National Night Out 2021

Hosted by the
Union Park United Methodist Church,
with the support of the
Union Park Neighborhood Association





Photos from the UPUMC Newsletter, courtesy of Union Park United Methodist Church

PROJECTS COMING TO THE UNION PARK AREA

In our last newsletter, which is available on our website, we featured the Birdland Master Plan which is now posted on our website. The Birdland Master Plan is a long range plan to develop the Birdland area into a destination recreational area. We are excited to summarize developments and construction planned in 2022-2023.

Playground Equipment in Union Park

Some of the old playground equipment in Union Park was removed in September. Don't worry, the iconic Rocket Slide will remain and is being repaired. New playground equipment was delivered to the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department the week of September 13th. Parks and Rec is installing new playground equipment at the end of September, thanks to Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines, sponsored by Meredith Corporation. One of the rain gardens near the wading pool was removed because it was failing and because of stinging insects. The other rain garden will be rebuilt and replanted.

The Rocket Slide is closed for now but it will reopen later this fall once the fiberglass slide has been repainted, which requires a special technique and it has been difficult finding someone to do that work. Kudos to Parks and Rec for their commitment to continue to save this landmark.

Public restrooms throughout the parks system will be closed for the season on October 16th.



Proposed Improvements on U.S. 69

If you live, work or drive on East 14th Street in Des Moines, this is for you. The Iowa Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting to discuss the proposed road, bicycle, and pedestrian alternatives on U.S. 69 from the Warren County Line in Des Moines to I-80 in Polk County.

The U.S. 69 Location Study is evaluating existing and future multimodal operations as well as safety and reliability. Focused, concept-level projects to specific areas along the corridor will be identified. These projects will balance needs and improve safety for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The Iowa DOT is providing two meeting formats for the public meeting: in person and an at your own pace virtual meeting.

More information is posted on the Iowa DOT and UPNA Facebook page.

PROJECTS COMING TO THE UNION PARK AREA (Continued)

Sewer Pump Station Replacement

The Birdland sewer pump station at 1800 Pennsylvania Avenue isn't something everyone notices as they drive on Penn Ave, but it is an important part of the sewer system that keeps us happy. The existing pump station was built circa 1960's and will be demolished after a new one is built in 2022 and 2023. It needs to be replaced to serve the increase in volume it has to bear. UPNA worked with the Waste Water Reclamation Authority on a design that fits the neighborhood. We think they did a good job.



Second Avenue Bridge Replacement

The 2nd Avenue bridge over Birdland Drive was constructed in 1936 and altered and widened in 1986. Based on its condition, the City will be constructing a new bridge. The 2nd Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines river was constructed and widened at about the same time. With the bridge over Birdland Drive scheduled for replacement, the City will be rehabilitating the 2nd Avenue Bridge over the river as well.

The City anticipates Birdland Drive (under the 2nd Avenue Bridge) will be closed for the majority of time the bridge is under construction which is estimated to occur primarily in 2022 and 2023; therefore, the City estimates Birdland Drive and possibly the bike trail as well, will be closed for the majority of 2022 and 2023.

On 2nd Avenue, there will be road closures and lane reductions during construction. 2nd Avenue will have one lane of traffic in each direction open at a time during construction. Driveway access points along the corridor will be maintained as much as possible by staging construction or temporary gravel accesses, except when construction is occurring immediately in front of the access or the access is being replaced. The bridges will be constructed in stages to maintain one lane of traffic in each direction. The City anticipates Birdland Drive will be closed for most of the time while the 2nd Avenue Bridge is under construction.

PROJECTS COMING TO THE UNION PARK AREA (Continued)

Birdland Marina

Work on the Birdland Marina is projected to start in May 2023. It is expected to take 50 work days. There are a lot of moving parts here. Prospect Park is getting a new boat ramp in 2022 and that is a priority to accommodate the Rowing Regatta the last part of September 2022. During the construction at Birdland, there will be no river access at Birdland Marina. The Rowing Club and general public may use Prospect Park to access the river. Tree clearing on both sides of Birdland Drive, depending on river levels, will continue in 2022-2023. Work on the Penn parking lot will be completed first. Portable toilets will be located/maintained on site while restroom is not accessible. Work on the on Penn parking lot and Guzman Building (Des Moines Rowing Club) lot will not take place at the same time. Access to the Guzman building will be maintained along north side of new parking lot.



THE HERITAGE CAROUSEL

My Favorite 5 FAQ's at the Heritage Carousel

1. *Is this Carousel old?*

Although built in the Antique Style with elaborate hand carved and intricately painted animals, the Heritage Carousel in Union Park dates back to just 1998. The Carousel was built specifically for us and is not the Carousel from the old Riverside Amusement Park.

2. *How fast does the Carousel go and can you make it go backwards?*

The State of Iowa does have a speed limit of 25 mph for Carousels in Iowa. The Heritage Carousel is required to have an annual inspection by the State and we are always way below the speed limit! And no, the Carousel does not go backwards.

3. *Who owns the Carousel?*

Although located in a Des Moines City Park, the city does not own or operate the Heritage Carousel. The Carousel is owned and operated by the Des Moines Carousel Foundation, a nonprofit 51(c)3. The Carousel depends on ticket and merchandise sales, rentals, and private donations to continue to operate.

4. *Why doesn't the Giraffe go up and down?*

We like to say it's because the giraffe is too tall and would hit its head but it's really because he is too heavy.

5. *How do the animals get their names?*

The Heritage Carousel has an annual animal adoption program. If you adopt one of our animals, you can name it! For more information about this program, go to our website, www.heritagecarousel.org.

During my 5 plus years as Executive Director, these are some of the most common questions I've heard. If you have questions about the Heritage Carousel, send me an email at information@heritagecarousel.org and I will answer it on our page. Thanks for visiting!

Jackie Cacciatore, Executive Director

MAKE A MEMORY • MAKE A SMILE

Leadership Transition at HOME Inc.

Pam Carmichael is leaving her successful career creating and promoting stable housing in Des Moines, for a well-earned retirement. The 40+ year veteran of the non-profit community spent most of her career at HOME, Inc. Through her tenure as Executive Director, Carmichael grew the non-profit from a staff of five to more than a dozen. This expansion translated into thousands upon thousands of more central lowans – particularly low-income and minority population – receiving education and support to find or retain housing and ultimately creating more economically stable communities.

“I have loved my career at HOME, Inc. It has always been more than a job for me. It’s been about investing in the community I love and its people. If there is one thing I know in my bones, it’s that keeping families housed is a critical factor in solving a host of other community problems – like poverty, poor health and access to education,” said Carmichael. “So, though I’m excited for retirement, I will always be a champion of HOME, Inc. and its mission.”

As Carmichael’s tenure draws to a close, HOME, Inc. is excited to welcome her successor, Tony Montgomery. Montgomery has worked in a variety of capacities related to creating or sustaining affordable housing. Most recently he worked for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines as the SVP/Director of Community Investment.

“The next few months are going to be exciting and challenging,” said Montgomery. “But I am thrilled at the opportunity to join the HOME, Inc. team. The organization is truly unique in that it surrounds individuals with what they need to gain stable housing. It’s not a one-size-fits-all program. And that is why the organization is so successful.”

To learn more about HOME, Inc and its impact on central Iowa, check out the most recent [annual report](#). You’ll see how staff fielded thousands of calls about rental housing issues, educated hundreds of families on home ownership, saved dozens of families from becoming homeless in a crisis, and invested millions into neighborhood development and revitalization.

Congratulations Pam! Welcome Tony!



Pam Carmichael



Tony Montgomery.

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

Phone (optional) _____ E-mail _____

Yearly Dues: Three levels of Membership: \$10.00 Family membership, \$25 Supporter, \$30 Business

We accept cash or checks 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.

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

UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

