



www.unionparkdsm.com

Volume 25 Issue 2 Rock-It In the Park issue

June 2025

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Visit our website for news and information.

AN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

★ ROCK-IT ★ IN THE PARK!

JULY 4TH • UNION PARK • 12 - 4 PM

**FREE FOOD • GAMES
BOUNCE HOUSES &
HERITAGE CAROUSEL RIDES**

Even more FUN...

**FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE
(UNCHARTED) & LIVE MUSIC AT
CAPTAIN ROY'S STARTS AT 4 PM!**

THANK YOU TO THE EVENT SPONSORS



AN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Rock-It in the Park! An Independence Day Celebration

The Union Park Neighborhood Association and SparkUP Committee are busy planning the second annual old fashioned Independence Day Celebration in Union Park, just north of the Rocket Slide. The events starts at noon on July 4th. First will be the Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Then the fun starts with a free lunch of hot dogs, chips, watermelon and lemonade or water and other favorites. Randy Burke and the Prisoners will play live music from 12:30 to 3:00. The day culminates with a movie at Captain Roy's. Games and bounce houses for the kids and competition games for adults will be available throughout the day. The Heritage Carousel will offer free rides from 12:00 to 4:00. There is something for every age group.

- Thank you to our sponsors: Parks Area Foundation, Neighborhood Development Corporation, Union Park Neighborhood Association, The Heritage Carousel, Polk County Board of Supervisors, Amvets Post 2, Fairway, Invest DSM, Captain Roy's, and City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation.

EVENTS OF THE DAY - ROCK-IT IN THE PARK

- Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem by Amvets Post #2
- Free Food:
 - Grilled hot dogs
 - Watermelon
 - Chips
 - Soft drinks/bottled water
- Bounce Houses
- Free Rides on the Carousel: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
- Live Musical entertainment: Randy Burke and the Prisoners
- Face painting
- Games for kids and Kick Ball Competition
- Free outdoor movie at Captain Roy's: "Uncharted".

Note: Fireworks are not allowed in City Parks. Alcohol is not allowed in City Parks.

All donations go to Union Park Neighborhood Association to fund more neighborhood events





Independence Day Kickball Tournament

There will be an Independence Day celebration in Union Park. Part of the festivities will be a kickball tournament. We would love for you to put together a team and come out and play.

Here's how it works!

- You must have at least 6 members, but not more than 11. At 12, we ask that you split your team into two.
- There is a \$25 cash only entry fee due at time of registration.
- Entry fees will be rewarded to 1st and 2nd place winners.
- Third place will receive a prize as well.
- Please arrive at 11:30 to register and view the bracket.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at rachelkriley@hotmail.com. We hope to see you there!! Rachel Riley-SparkUP and UPNA

Please tell me your name.

Your answer

Please tell me your team's name.

Your answer

Please give me your email so that I can contact you if needed.

Your answer

Do you have any other questions for me?

Your answer

Featured Bounce Houses for Rock-It 2025



Skee-Ball



Leaps And Bounds



14' Hi-Striker



Bungee Run



Lime Bounce House

Lawn of the Week Coordinators needed

We owe a great debt of gratitude to **Tom McDermott** and **Yvonne McClure** who have volunteered as Lawn of the Week Awards (LOWA) Coordinators since 2012. They retired as LOWA Coordinators this year. THANK YOU for your service to the neighborhood!

The Lawn of the Week Awards program started in 1992 by the UPNA Steering Committee, to identify and honor yards that exhibited both good landscape design and consistent quality of yard maintenance.

Now we need someone new to volunteer to walk and drive through the area to identify outstanding front yards of neighbors whose lawns exemplified both neatness and beauty.

As a "winner", is identified, a sign is placed in the yard, with the owner's permission - for one week - to proclaim the yard as the **"Union Park Neighborhood Lawn of the Week"**. The winners will be honored at the Fall General Meeting. Recipients receive a frameable certificate of achievement and a gift certificate.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to info@UnionParkDSM.com.



We have lost a great friend



Marsha Steele

Long-time Union Park neighborhood resident, Marsha Steele passed away peacefully on April 27, 2025. We celebrate her life. Marsha brought warmth and determination to everything she touched.

For 25 years, Marsha made her mark in the corporate world, navigating the complexities of group insurance with a sharp mind for management, sales, and marketing. But anyone who truly knew Marsha understood that her heart belonged elsewhere - among the treasures and stories of bygone eras. In 2005, Marsha followed her passion and opened "Found Things," her antique store in the East Village.

More than just a shop owner, she became a neighborhood champion, serving as President of the Historic East Village Neighborhood Association from 2009-2011. Marsha took immense pride in being part of the area's revitalization, helping transform it into the vibrant district it is today. Her discerning eye for beautiful objects with histories to tell made her store a destination for those seeking something special, something with a past and a story. After 14 years of connecting people with treasures, Marsha retired in 2019, leaving behind a community that had been enriched by her presence and vision.

Marsha was a dedicated member of the Union Park Neighborhood Association, where she served as Co-Chair for 9 years (2007-2016). Marsha was a guiding force that entire time. She always believed in our Union Park neighborhood and worked hard to improve it.

Her commitment to community extended beyond business interests—The beautiful home and garden she created on Thompson Avenue (which she proudly called "the prettiest street on Des Moines' east side") reflected her artistic eye and nurturing spirit. Her flourishing garden was one of her greatest joys and a testament to her patient care and appreciation for beauty.

A Memorial Service was held on Friday June 6, 2025 at Iles Dunn's Chapel. Contributions can be made to National Public Radio in Marsha's memory.

Thank you, Marsha, for showing us how to find the extraordinary in what others might pass by. You were, and always will be, quite a find yourself.



CLOWNS AT THE CAROUSEL Save the Date



Free Family Fun and Entertainment:

Urbandale Community Band
Ankeny School of Rock
DSM Breakerz
Korn Patch Klowns
Free Rides on the Heritage Carousel
Safety Street

Free Food/Refreshments:

Pappa John's Pizza
Popcorn
Lemonade

Sponsors:

Blank Children's Hospital
Des Moines Metro Credit Union
Korn Patch Klowns
Safe Kids Iowa
Unity Point



Save the Date: National Night Out August 5, 2025

National Night Out (NNO) will be on the first Tuesday of August in 2025. We are happy to announce that NNO for the Union Park area will once again be hosted by the Union Park United Methodist Church, 2305 East 12th Street (corner of E 12 and Guthrie Street) in their parking lot on August 5th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They always do a great job and everyone is invited to enjoy food, beverages, fun, games and prizes and socializing with your neighbors. Meet city officials and representatives from the Des Moines Police and Fire Department. This event also doubles as the "Back to School Party". Don't miss this fun event.



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.

Porch Fest DSM 2025



PORCHFEST — DSM — UNION PARK

Porch Fest

DSM

UNION PARK

DES MOINES - IOWA

2025

SEPTEMBER 7

11:30 TO 5:00

20 BANDS PLAYING ON UNION PARK PORCHES

Cedar County Cobras	Dewey Cantrell
Luke Fox	Stutterin' Jimmy & the Goosebumps
Corbett Reeves	Evander Ellsbury
Bonne Finken	Juliano Dock
Dogtown Rhythm Band	Zane Gedler Trio w/Tanner Taylor & Jack Curtis
Robert Deitch	Evan Pratt
Zachary Freedom	Mike Valley & The Complete Disaster
Ducharme-Jones Band	Dan Tedesco
Bluff Street	Mango Soul Band
Lauren Vilmain Featuring Sean Veeder	The Findley Elementary Students



www.porchfestdsm.org



POLK COUNTY
Board of Supervisors



ATLANTIC Coca-Cola BOTTLING COMPANY



Iowa State Bank



Capital LANDSCAPING



LINDA WESTERGAARD
DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL



UNION PARK

SCRUB—Spring Cleanup to Reduce Urban Blight

SCRUB stands for SPRING CLEANUP to REDUCE URBAN BLIGHT. It is the City's mission to enhance the City's neighborhoods by allowing residents an opportunity to remove yard waste and debris from homes and yards to reduce the blighted areas within the City.

What kind of SCRUB events does the City of Des Moines sponsor?

MEGA SCRUB: An event that is hosted by select neighborhoods within their section of the City. Any Des Moines Resident may participate.

Transfer Station SCRUB: An alternate drop-off location used for SCRUB events. The Metro Waste Transfer Station is located at 4198 Delaware Ave.

Compost Site SCRUB: A drop off site designated for yard and tree debris during SCRUB events. The Des Moines Compost Site is located at 1601 Harriett Street.

SCRUB Event Reminders Free Drop off - Delays Possible

Proof of Residency is required - Bring a photo id or current utility bill.

Before each event, please review the SCRUB guidelines.

MEGA SCRUB events now offer Household Hazardous Waste Disposal. (MEGA SCRUB sites only)

SCRUB events are free to Des Moines citizens, therefore you may experience longer wait times based on participation.

Questions - If you have questions about SCRUB events, please call at 515-283-4950.



City of Des Moines Department of Public Works 2025 SCRUB Calendar



Date	Location	Hours
6/21/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Capitol Complex Lot #3, W. of E. 14th south of Court Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
7/19/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
8/16/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
9/20/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Bell Avenue Business Park, 1901 Bell Ave. [MEGA SCRUB]	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
10/18/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
11/15/2025	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM

A WORLD OF PRAISE

Sunday, June 29, 2025
4 PM

\$10/person

(free for 12 yrs & under)

The Church at Union Park
821 Arthur Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50316

Purchase tickets
@ **EVENTBRITE**



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1395578134769?aff=oddtcreator>

Enjoy praise with:

- **Dr. Rich Salas & Guitarras ATM Friends** ▪
- **Des Moines Karen SDA Church Choir** ▪
- **Michelle Frazier & Friends** ▪
- **Zola Praise** ▪
- **Michael Allen** ▪



HEAVY APPETIZERS SERVED DURING INTERMISSION.

The event is a fundraiser for The Rowena Arnold Christian School (RACS) located in Ganta, Liberia.
Questions? Call The Church at Union Park at (515) 265-5258. All donations are tax-deductible.

Help prevent truck and landfill fires!

Safely dispose of single-use or rechargeable batteries and personal, battery-powered electronics in our new Drop-Off Container at Des Moines Municipal Service Center 2!



IT ONLY TAKES
ONE BATTERY
TO SPARK A FIRE!



CITY OF DES MOINES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Metro Waste Authority

A FREE Battery Drop-Off Container is now available inside Municipal Service Center 2 at 1700 Maury Street, Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 3:30 PM—excluding City holidays.

It only takes one battery to spark a fire!

Batteries are dangerous in our garbage and recycling. That's why the City has with **Metro Waste Authority** to introduce this free and convenient battery drop-off for Des Moines residents.

These drop-offs accept alkaline batteries, button batteries, electronics with rechargeable batteries, and more.

Learn more at www.WhereltShouldGo.com/Batteries

Thank you to these sponsors of Rock-It in the Park



CAPTAIN ROY'S

1900 Saylor Road

at Birdland Marina



Thank you to these sponsors of Rock-It in the Park



POLK COUNTY
Board of Supervisors



*neighborhood
development
corporation*



**Invest
DSM**

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS



Highland Park | Oak Park | Union Park

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, checks or Venmo 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

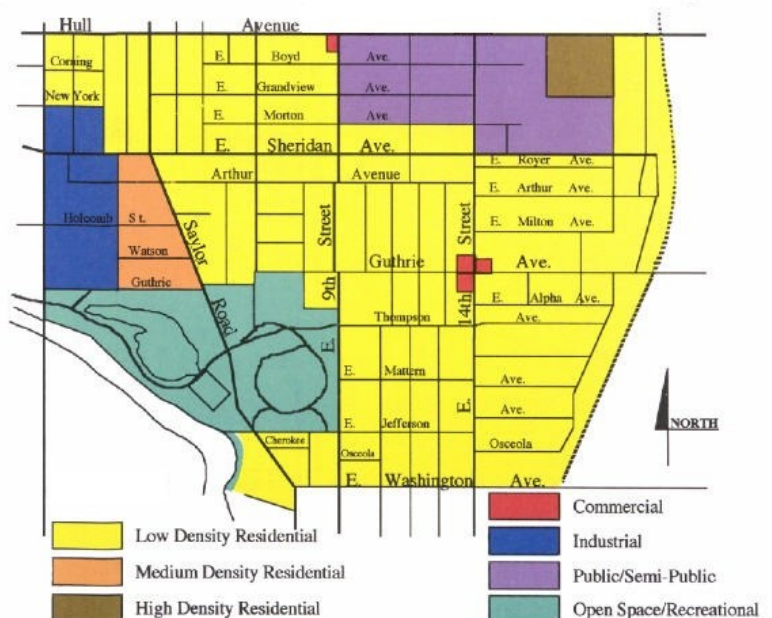
Your information is always kept private. We do not sell or give your information to ANYONE.



venmo
@UPNApayment

IMPORTANT: If using Venmo, PLEASE fill out the membership form as well so we may properly credit your membership account and mail to: **UPNA Treasurer, PO BOX 16113, Des Moines, IA 50316-9402**

UNION PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES:

The Union Park Neighborhood Association consists of the neighborhood from Hull Avenue on the north, Glenbrook Drive on the east, Washington Avenue on the south and the Des Moines River and Second Avenue on the west.

Did you miss our last newsletter issue or would you like to catch up? Our newsletters are posted on our website at www.unionparkdsm.com