



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

Volume 26 Issue 1

May 2026

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## Spring General Meeting

### Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM

The UPNA Spring General Meeting will be held Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Shelter House in Birdland Park.



Our first guest speaker will be a historian, Archie Cook, who will give a presentation the origins of Union Park Neighborhood including the families that first settled here, the development of the park and more. He has a lot of interesting tidbits and some never before seen historic photos. You won't want to miss this! We also welcome Sadie Gasparatto from Habitat for Humanity who will give us an update on their focus in the Union Park area.



Other local elected officials have been invited to bring us up to date on county, city and neighborhood issues.

The Ding Darling Shelter in Birdland Park is located near Guthrie and Saylor Road at 2100 Saylor Road.

**UPNA Officers/Contacts**

**Co-Chairs**

James Riley 515-205-9005  
[info@unionparkdsm.com](mailto:info@unionparkdsm.com)

Jack Daugherty 515-202-0136  
[info@unionparkdsm.com](mailto:info@unionparkdsm.com)

**Secretary / Newsletter**

Paul Sadler 515-265-5372  
[info@unionparkdsm.com](mailto:info@unionparkdsm.com)

**Treasurer / Membership**

Paul Cole 515-263-1885  
[Colepw2005@gmail.com](mailto:Colepw2005@gmail.com)

[www.unionparkdsm.com](http://www.unionparkdsm.com)  
Visit our website for news and information.

## **PORCHFEST 2026: SEPTEMBER 13 - SAVE THE DATE**

PorchFest 2026: September 13, 2026. More bands playing on the porches of the Union Park area.

Here are some links you might like:

**Follow on Facebook:** [PorchFest DSM](#) [PorchFest DSM | Facebook](#)

**PorchFest Website:** <https://www.porchfestdsm.org/>

# **PORCHFEST — DSM — UNION PARK**

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## **Save the Date: National Night Out August 4, 2026**

National Night Out (NNO) will be on the first Tuesday of August in 2026. 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 4th 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. 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 in 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.

## Bronze Sponsor Award

Wendel Saunders from Rollin’ Relics Car Club presented the 2025 Bronze Sponsor Award to the Union Park Neighborhood Association in appreciation and deep gratitude for assistance to the 2025 Cruise to the Carousel. Because of the relief, the Rollin’ Relics committee decided to have another Cruise to the Carousel in 2026! Special recognition and thanks go to these volunteers for the Union Park neighborhood: Amanda Jackson, Michelle DeLong, Curtis Jackson, James Riley, Terri Moon, Rachel Riley, Meghan Daugherty, Terry Roberts and Jackie Cacciatore.

The funds raised by the Cruise to the Carousel event goes to support the Heritage Carousel and keeping Carousel rides for children at 50 cents each. The amount raise by the Rollin Relics Car Club will be announced at a later date.



# 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  
2026 SCRUB Calendar**



Date	Location	Hours
5/16/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Ave. <span style="float: right;">[MEGA SCRUB]</span>	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
6/20/2026	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. <span style="float: right;">[MEGA SCRUB]</span>	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
7/18/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
8/15/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
9/19/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St. Bell Avenue Business Park, 1901 Bell Ave. <span style="float: right;">[MEGA SCRUB]</span>	City 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 1 PM
10/17/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM
11/21/2026	MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Ave. City of Des Moines Compost Center, 1601 Harriett St.	7 AM - 2 PM 7 AM - 2 PM

## Report Potholes with myDSMmobile



The myDSMmobile app provides residents the ability to attach a GPS location, photos and video to help City crews efficiently address problems and requests, including:

- Potholes
- Street Sweeper
- Tree Trimming
- Sewer Problem
- Tall Grass/Weeds
- Trash
- Graffiti
- And more...



Download on the App Store



GET IT ON Google Play

To submit a report online, visit [DSM.city/Report](https://DSM.city/Report)

## Grass Clippings in City Streets Create Problems



Grass clippings and other yard debris can clog the city's storm sewer intakes causing street flooding; therefore, the City is reminding residents and landscape companies that an administrative fine may be issued for blowing or raking grass clippings and leaves into a public street. The fine is \$50 for the first offense, \$75 for the second offense within the same year and the \$100 for the third offense.

# Des Moines City Council 2026



**CONNIE BOESEN**  
MAYOR



**CARL VOSS**  
AT LARGE



**MIKE SIMONSON**  
AT LARGE



**Rob X. Barron**  
WARD I



**LINDA WESTERGAARD**  
WARD II



**JOSH MANDELBAUM**  
WARD III



**JOE GATTO**  
WARD IV



City Hall – City Council Chambers  
400 Robert D Ray Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
[\(515\) 283-4944](tel:5152834944)

# UPNA Spring Egg Hunt - April 4th, 2026

Union Park Neighborhood Association teamed up with the Parks Area Foundation, Heritage Carousel, and Captain Roy's for the Spring Egg Hunt in Union Park on April 4th. It was a cool, cloudy day but the turnout was great. Free carousel rides were enjoyed and around 8,000 eggs were hoovered up quickly by the kids. Thanks to "The Ed-Ster Bunny" for making an appearance and thank you to all who planned, purchased, donated and stuffed the eggs and helped set things up.



**UNION PARK**  
**SPRING EGG HUNT**



**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 4, 2026**  
**10AM**

At Union Park  
 in Des Moines

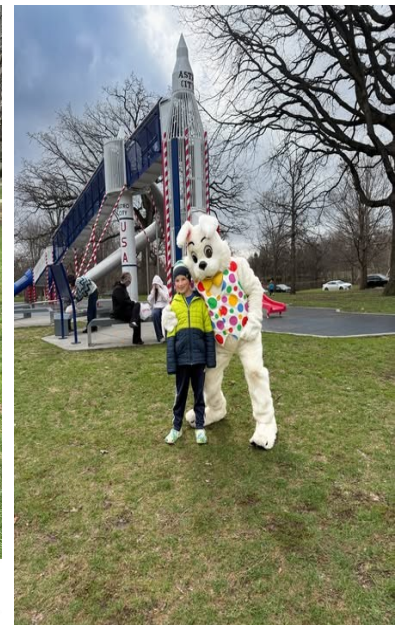


**Egg Hunt, Free Carousel Rides & A Visit from the Easter Bunny!**

Plastic eggs will contain candy and Carousel ride tokens




Senator Izaah Knox, the Easter Bunny and Jack Daugherty. Senator Knox often attends UPNA events to show his support.



# SAVE THE DATE: Cruise to the Carousel

Cruise to the Carousel  
is presented by the



## CRUISE TO THE CAROUSEL CAR SHOW

### SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2026

(Rain or Shine)

### The Heritage Carousel of Des Moines

UNION PARK • E 9th & Thompson Des Moines, Iowa

Car Show Charity: The Heritage Carousel  
of Des Moines



*25th Anniversary*

*Drivin' R Dreams  
to the Carousel*

**Registration:**  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Voting:**  
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

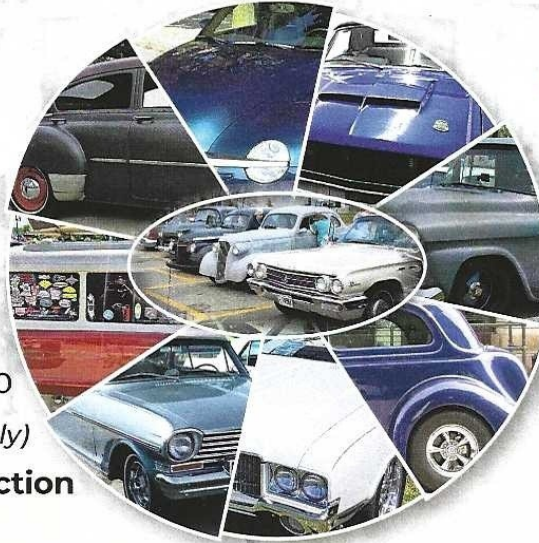
**Awards:**  
2:30 p.m.

**Show Registration:** \$20.00

**Dash Plaques** (first 150 only)

**Food – Door Prizes – Auction**

**50/50 Drawing**



Club members  
not in competition

.....  
**TOP 20 IN EACH CLASS**  
Stock & Modified  
~ Participant Vote ~

.....  
**10 SPECIAL AWARDS**  
Hood and trunk must be  
open to be judged

.....  
**STOCK CLASS**  
No More Than 3 Bolt-On  
Modifications  
(Mag wheels allowed as  
one modification)

**CAR SHOW INFORMATION:**  
Michael Shearn: 515-490-0736  
Wendell Saunders: 515-988-6902  
Tom Ladd: 515-321-9329

**HERITAGE CAROUSEL  
INFORMATION:**  
[www.heritagecarousel.org](http://www.heritagecarousel.org)

**ROLLIN RELICS®**  
Facebook: [rollinrelicsdsdm](https://www.facebook.com/rollinrelicsdsdm)  
Website: [www.rollinrelicsdsdm.org](http://www.rollinrelicsdsdm.org)

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### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle: Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ Engine \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of the right to participate, the entrants and their guests, by the execution of this form, releases and discharges the Rollin Relics Car Club, Inc., the City of Des Moines, and anyone connected with the presentation of the Car Show from any and all known and unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgement, and/or claims whatsoever that may be suffered by any entrant to his/her person or property.

**NO Alcoholic Beverages are allowed in the park by City Ordinance**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return the completed form  
along with a check payable to: Rollin Relics® Car Club, Inc.  
PO Box 8061  
Des Moines, Iowa 50301-8061

Club completed at show:  
Vehicle # \_\_\_\_\_ Stock \_\_\_\_\_ Modified \_\_\_\_\_

# NEIGHBORHOOD FINANCE CORPORATION

An important update from **Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC)** that can make a meaningful impact in the Union Park neighborhood.

NFC has increased both our forgivable home repair loan and down payment assistance to \$15,000 for eligible homebuyers in Polk County. These expanded resources are designed to help more families access safe, stable housing while also supporting reinvestment in our communities.

With these updates, residents may be able to:

- Access up to **\$15,000** in forgivable funds for home repairs or renovations
- Receive up to **\$15,000** in down payment assistance for qualifying households
- Purchase a home and complete needed updates with less upfront cost.

call our office with any questions. 515-246-0010

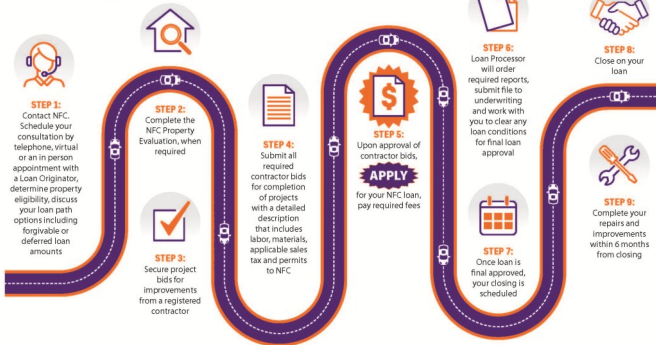
**4908 Franklin Avenue • Des Moines, Iowa 50310**

[NeighborhoodFinance.org](http://NeighborhoodFinance.org) • Follow us on Facebook



**NEIGHBORHOOD FINANCE CORPORATION HAS GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!**

## Process Timeline for Refinance, Home Improvement/Front Porch Journey for Improvements



4908 Franklin Ave. Des Moines, IA 50314 • 515-246-0010 • [NeighborhoodFinance.org](http://NeighborhoodFinance.org)

**NFC IS BETTER THAN EVER**  
with NFC's Advantage Loan!

NFC is excited to announce an **Increase in funding** for the NFC Polk County lending area. Call NFC today to learn more!



NOW receive up to...  
~~\$10,000~~  
**\$15,000**

**Forgivable Loan for Repairs**  
Borrowers, regardless of income, can receive up to a \$15,000 forgivable loan towards the cost of home renovations at the time of an NFC purchase, refinance, or home improvement loan.



NOW available with a home purchase...  
~~\$10,500~~  
**\$15,000**

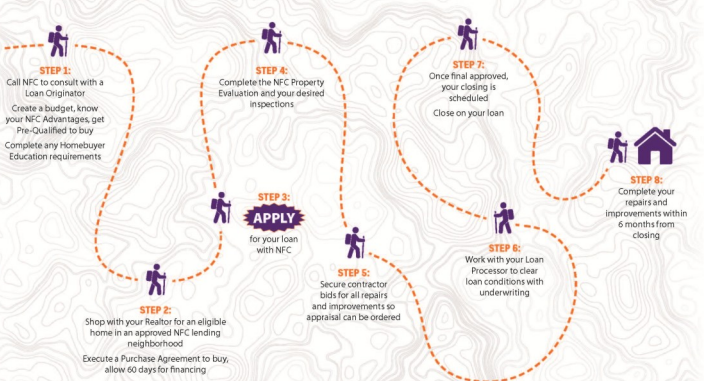
**Down Payment Assistance**  
Qualifying homebuyers may also receive a 0% interest (APR 0%) \$15,000 deferred down payment assistance loan to make buying a home affordable.



Scan to learn more about the NFC Advantage

Call NFC today for more details! 515-246-0010  
4908 Franklin Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310 • Des Moines NMLS #8943  
[NeighborhoodFinance.org](http://NeighborhoodFinance.org)

## Homebuying Journey Your Steps Home



1912 6th Ave. Des Moines, IA 50314 • 515-246-0010 • [NeighborhoodFinance.org](http://NeighborhoodFinance.org)

For more information on the Energy Advantage Program, please visit <https://neighborhoodfinance.org/loan-programs/energy-advantage>

**Richard Cook** NMLS# 400117  
Loan Originator  
515-273-1368  
[rcook@neighborhoodfinance.org](mailto:rcook@neighborhoodfinance.org)

**Bridgett Robinson** NMLS# 2244064  
Loan Originator  
515-273-1373  
[brobinson@neighborhoodfinance.org](mailto:brobinson@neighborhoodfinance.org)

**Kari Vitatum** NMLS# 2168731  
Loan Originator  
515-273-1380  
[kvitatum@neighborhoodfinance.org](mailto:kvitatum@neighborhoodfinance.org)

NMLS# 8943

For more information on NFC Loan programs visit the NFC website at [www.neighborhoodfinance.org](http://www.neighborhoodfinance.org) or complete our online application at [www.neighborhoodfinance.org/des-moines-area-application](http://www.neighborhoodfinance.org/des-moines-area-application)

## Invest DSM in Union Park: Progress, Investment, and What's Ahead

Over the past year, we've been working alongside residents and partners in Union Park to strengthen the neighborhood through targeted home investment, redevelopment, and community-driven initiatives. "The results so far reflect both the commitment of homeowners and the growing confidence in the district," said Executive Director Theresa Greenfield.

To date, we've completed 13 homeowner renovation projects, representing a total investment of more than \$441,000. These projects were made possible through a combination of grant support and strong homeowner participation, with residents contributing more than \$274,000 of that total, demonstrating a meaningful shared investment in the neighborhood's future.

In addition, we currently have 9 projects in progress, representing another \$262,000 in active investment. These projects continue to build momentum and signal sustained interest in improving housing quality across Union Park.

One of the most visible milestones has been the full renovation of 2220 E 13th Street. This project began in mid-2025 and was completed in early 2026. After listing, the home sold within just 72 hours, a strong indicator of market demand and the value of high-quality renovation in the area. It's a clear sign that the work happening here is resonating with buyers and helping reposition the neighborhood.

We're also advancing our first single-family developer project at 805 E Jefferson Avenue, which we expect will further reinforce the neighborhood's appeal and set a strong standard for future development. The home is anticipated to be completed in September, just in time for PorchFest.

At the same time, we're expanding opportunities for residents to participate directly. Our Block Challenge program launched on April 1, and we're already seeing strong interest. This program is designed to support clusters of neighbors who want to invest in their homes together, building momentum block by block.

If you've been considering improvements to your home, we'd love to connect. You can learn more or get started by visiting [www.investdsm.org](http://www.investdsm.org), emailing [info@investdsm.org](mailto:info@investdsm.org), or calling 515-221-8410.

Beyond individual properties, we've also been working in partnership with neighborhood stakeholders to pursue broader improvements. Recently, we collaborated on a Prairie Meadows grant application to enhance the entrance at the southeast corner of Union Park, an effort aimed at strengthening neighborhood identity and creating a more welcoming gateway.

All of this work reflects what's possible when residents, partners, and organizations align around a shared vision. There's still more ahead, but the progress so far shows that Union Park is building real momentum, together.

**Christopher Civitate**



# Save the Date: July 4th in Union Park!



The Spark UP Committee is planning the Annual “Old Fashioned Fourth of July” event in Union Park to celebrate the birth of our nation. This will be a family friendly event with fun and treats for everyone. Please watch for details.

## SPARK UP

Spark UP Committee is made up of volunteers in the Union Park neighborhood area who are responsible for many of the creative events for the Union Park Neighborhood Association which foster a sense of community and relationship in our neighborhood. Some of the projects which they plan and implement are mentioned in this newsletter:

- Rock-It in the Park (July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration)
- Porchfest DSM (September 13)
- Thompson Treat (Halloween, October 31)
- Light UP the Carousel (Christmas at the Carousel) (December)
- The Spring Egg Hunt in Union Park (2026)
- Progressive Dinner

Spark UP Committee is always thinking up and planning new projects. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, please contact one of the UPNA officers (front page of the newsletter) and you will be put in touch with a Spark UP project officer.



# THE HERITAGE CAROUSEL OF DES MOINES

The Heritage Carousel is the anchor for many park activities. Open season starts May 23, 2026! Currently booking rentals for some off-season events as well as rentals during the regular open riding season.



**LEAD HORSE (Row 5, Outside)  
"McFarland"  
Adopted by  
Union Park  
Neighborhood Association**

## Union Park Neighborhood-wide Spring Garage Sale May 23, 2026



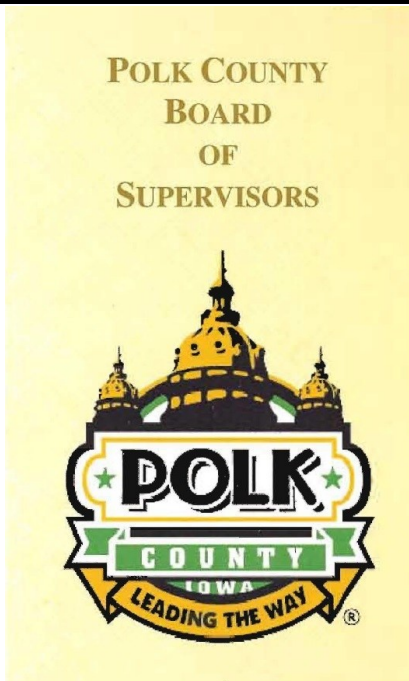
The Union Park Neighborhood-wide Spring Garage Sale traditionally has been held on the fourth Saturday in May. This is not an organized event so you are on your own. Plan a garage sale and put up a sign on Saturday May 23<sup>th</sup>. Clean up, clear out, and sell that stuff! If you've been thinking of having a sale, why not have it anyway and be a part of a larger effort?



Neighborhood Development Corporation, a sponsor of Rock-IT In the Park



Iowa State Bank is a sponsor of PorchFest DSM 2026



Thanks to the Polk County Board of Supervisors for the Community Development Grant!



Thank you to Parks Area Foundation, Sponsor of the Egg Hunt in Union Park and Rock-IT in the Park on July 4th.

**ATLANTIC *Coca-Cola*  
BOTTLING COMPANY**



Thank You Atlantic Bottling Company for being a PorchFest DSM 2026 sponsor

Sara Hopkings is a PorchFest DSM 2026 sponsor



Thank You Invest DSM for sponsoring PorchFest DSM 2026

**Capital LANDSCAPING**  
 Patios • Retaining Walls • Fire pits • Outdoor Kitchens  
 Lawn Care • Soil Restoration • Drainage • Landscape Design

**FIND OUT MORE:**  
 (515) 244-2724  
 113 E. Sheridan Ave  
 Des Moines, IA 50313  
[www.CapitalLandscaping.com](http://www.CapitalLandscaping.com)

OVER 25 YEARS  
 SERVING THE  
 DES MOINES METRO

Thank You, Capital Landscaping, for sponsoring PorchFest DSM 2026

# 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](http://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.

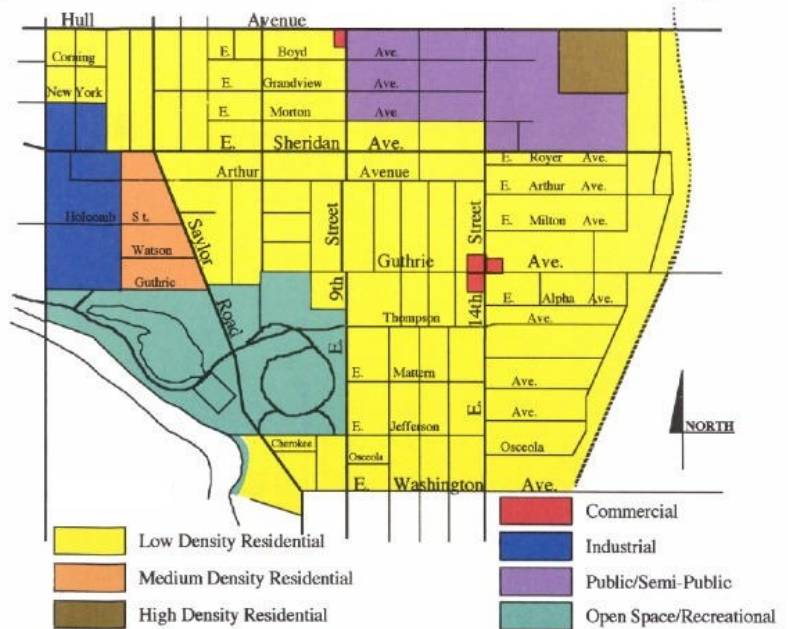


# venmo

## @UPNPayment

**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.