



Westwood News



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

With the New Year being a time many reflect on the future and the year past I wanted to thank the many neighborhood residents who assisted the WNA with its neighborhood improvement efforts. Walnut Creek and the surrounding woods are cleaner for our efforts, we now have benches along the bike trail that goes through our neighborhood, Hanawalt's track is complete and open for use by kids and residents, and Jazz in July saw one of the best concerts at the amphitheater in recent years.

This past spring, a property crime spree was stopped within weeks, and we (and neighborhood businesses) survived the closure of the Grand Avenue Bridge. You are truly a great and inspiring group of neighbors with whom to work. I, and the WNA board, accordingly look forward to you helping us come up with additional ways to improve our already great neighborhood in the coming year. In the meantime, let's say we all hit Bistro Montage for WNA's annual winter party on the evening of Thursday January 23rd to celebrate and reconnect.

Mike Keller
WNA President

WESTWOOD WINTER PARTY AT BISTRO MONTAGE - 6 P.M. - 8 P.M. THURSDAY JANUARY 23RD.

Please join your neighbors and friends for Westwood Neighborhood Association's annual winter party at Bistro Montage (2724 Ingersoll Ave.), Thursday January 23rd from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. The event is free with a cash bar. Westwood resident and James Beard Nominee Enosh Kelley will be serving a selection of sweet and savory hors d'oeuvres and desserts for the event, so you don't want to miss it!

Enosh will also be offering a limited menu for those who wish to dine following the party. If interested in dinner after the party call Bistro Montage ((515) 557-1924) at least 48 hours in advance to RSVP.

Westwood's annual Winter Party is a great time to reconnect with neighbors, meet new residents, and enjoy award winning food. Hope to see you there! No RSVP is necessary for the party. Just show up ready to enjoy!

2014 DUES ARE DUE

Westwood Annual Dues for the Year 2014 are now due. In years past, Westwood membership ran from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next. The WNA membership changed this in the fall of 2012, with 2014 being the first year that all dues will be due in January.

Your dues help the Westwood Neighborhood Association fund numerous events (including our upcoming Winter Social/Party at Bistro Montage on the evening of Thursday January 23rd), distribute a community newsletter to every neighborhood resident, participate in local projects that enhance our neighborhood, and provide a platform and voice for the neighborhood when a need for one arises.

2014 Annual Dues are \$40 for a household or \$25 for an individual. A membership card and envelope is included in this newsletter. Checks should be made payable to Westwood Neighborhood Association and mailed to WNA Treasurer, Vicki Sehgal, at 5125 Welker Avenue.

Upcoming WNA BOARD MEETINGS

WNA Board Meetings have been set for 2014 for the 4th Wednesdays of February, May and August.

Feb 26, 2014 7 p.m. at 113 51st St. (Keller/Maruca Home)

* Board Meeting to set WNA agenda for 2014

May 28, 2014 7 p.m. at Hanawalt

* Community and Board Meeting with representatives of Des Moines Police Department and County Sheriff's Office

August 27, 2014 7 p.m. at Hanawalt

* Community and Board Meeting
Speakers to be determined

On December 18 the Des Moines Zoning Board of Adjustment has approved a variance and conditional use permit to use the property located at 6220 Grand Avenue for an amusement business to include a go-kart track, a "kiddie" go track, a miniature golf area, baseball/softball batting practice cages, and a zip line structure targeted for children. The board denied any use of the property for a shooting or paint ball gallery. The amusement enterprise will be operated by Ohfir Carmi and is scheduled to open in mid-2014. Staff for the City of Des Moines will be overseeing the project to ensure compliance with city codes. The enterprise is subject to noise ordinance and numerous other limitations. You can watch the zoning board hearing and decision at this link, beginning at 15:15. The proposal was item 6 on the agenda.

<http://www.dmgov.org/government/boards/ZoningBoardofAdjustment/Pages/Meetings.aspx>

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT COMING AT CORNER OF WELKER AND 51ST

In response to a request from the WNA the city of Des Moines Traffic and Transportation Division has re-assessed the blind and excessively tight corner at 51st and Welker for possible improvements. Presently the corner is too tight for many if not most vehicles to actually turn west from 51st onto Welker without veering into the lane reserved for folks driving east up Welker while at the same time the corner is essentially blind. Following review the city determined that it will rebuild the curb on the northwest corner of that intersection to create a larger radius for turning.

Because there is a storm drain to deal with the corner will still be tighter than most corners, but the change will be sufficient to make it possible for vehicles to make the turn while staying in their own lane of traffic. The city will also be restricting parking on 51st and on Welker immediately adjacent to the corner. The curb work is scheduled for Summer/Fall 2014.

If you have a traffic issue you would like the WNA board to raise with the city, please email Mike Keller at mrk515@gmail.com.

WE HAVE NEW NEIGHBORS! WELCOME TO WESTWOOD!

Two of Westwood's recent additions (400 block of 51st St) are Kiel and Lisa Uhl, who moved here from Portland, Oregon. Kiel grew up in the area so the move is a return to his old stomping grounds. They chose Westwood because of the feel and character of the homes, as well as the proximity to downtown and access to parks and trails.

The Uhl's have one dog, a Rhodesian Ridgeback/Australian Shepherd mix named Ruby. Kiel is an architect and road-race director and Lisa was in veterinary school at Iowa State before deferring to accept an opportunity as a professional distance runner for Nike. In addition to the neighborhood, they enjoy running, traveling, being outdoors, and hitting the movies. Welcome!



Westwood is also pleased to welcome Randy and Sarah Reichardt, who, along with their dog Ouray (a Ridgeback), moved to the 100 block of 51st in late summer. Randy grew up in Des Moines while Sarah's a native Texan. The two moved to Westwood from Dallas, Texas.

With the packing boxes almost emptied, they then married this past September. And yes, that's one of the old Reichardt clothing store signs hanging in their foyer in the picture. Randy works in the wellness field while Sarah has her sites set on charitable work. Welcome to Westwood newlyweds! We're very pleased you now call us home.

Do you have a new neighbor on your street? We'd like to know!

Email Amy MacKrell at amwalshmac@yahoo.com with information and we'll make sure they are acknowledged in the upcoming issues of The Westwood News.



Editors Note: Mike Gaul with DM Parks and Recreation gave a presentation at our annual meeting regarding the Urban Bow Hunt program in which several WNA residents participate. Below is a summary he provided of that presentation.

As a result of citizen feedback on the high deer population, The City of Des Moines has conducted an urban bow hunt for over 10 years to reduce the urban deer population to an acceptable level, NOT eliminate the population. Reasons include reducing the following: car/deer accidents, damage to landscaping such as flowers and trees, and the threat of Lyme disease. With a goal to reduce the deer herd identified, a reasonable avenue to achieve this reduction was an urban bow hunt program, which started in 1998.

To ensure the safety for both participants and public, hunters participating in this program need to attend a one-time bow hunter's safety course, pass an annual proficiency test, apply for a permit and then adhere to a long list of requirements including distance requirements, elevated stand use, cased bow to and from stand, a check-in procedure once a deer is harvested and many more. These requirements, along with the quality participants in the program have produced zero safety incidents for themselves or the public.

If you have a large parcel and would like to hunt your property or have someone hunt it, the process starts by contacting the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department with interest in participating. There is a form to be completed and all adjoining neighbors must be notified. There is also an inspection where distances and other factors are evaluated. If approved, the Parks and Recreation Director will issue a permit for a hunter to hunt your property.



Populations are trending down based on an aerial survey flown each year since the mid 1990's, but other factors may be contributing to the decline in addition to the urban hunt. Because this year's aerial survey of Des Moines Waterworks park showed deer populations to be below goal it suspended its participation in the program for the current hunting season. Des Moines as a whole has not reached the target population but has made progress. If you would like more information or have questions or issues with the program please contact Mike Gaul with the City of Des Moines Park and Recreation Department at magaul@dmgov.org or 208-0310. — Mike Gaul

WESTWOOD BENCHES INSTALLED



Last spring, a few Westwood residents expressed an interest to install benches along the Walnut Creek bike path to enjoy and welcome trail users to the neighborhood boundaries. This project has been completed with three benches installed, complete with plaques on top of a concrete pad. One is located at the intersection of the Bill Riley Trail and the Walnut Creek Trail by Greenwood Park. The other is at the bottom of the gate off Welker and the third is just north of the bridge on North Valley Drive. The plaques on all three read "Welcome to Westwood



Neighborhood."

This would not have been possible without support from all of you – your donations were not only generous and greatly appreciated – but vital to completing this project so quickly! So once more, thank you, thank you, thank you to the following Westwood residents:

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| James & Barbara Bell | Arlene Shannon | Bruce & Annabel St. Amour | John & Ann Nesbit |
| Michael Keller & Rick Keller Maruca | Jay Fulton & Diane Kuhn | Scott & Diane Post | Kathy & Scott Bannister |
| Jim Spevak | John & Ann Nesbit | Rod & Jennifer Townsend | Avril & Hal Chase |
| David & Laura Mackaman | John & Sharon Murphy | Jim & Allison Fleming | Tom Kisch & Margo Hutcheson |
| Sheldon & Roselind Rabinowitz | Garth Coffman & Celene Gogerty | Shirley & D. Munier | David & Jane Hemminger |
| Leann Treloar | Dennis & Cheryl Pederson | Dennis & Nancy Galeazzi | Marg Hull-Jackson |
| Ryan Clutter | Matthew & Mary Mouw | Greg & Maria Berry | David & Kristy Barzen |
| Rose Lee Pomerantz | William & Maureen Tiffany | Thomas & Sondra Newkirk | Rob den Hartog & Brenda Currans |
| Steve & Sara Marquardt | Melissa & Mike Wolnerman | Kelli Oswald | Dirk & Adele Ver Steeg |
| Dave DeBord & Kris Sutton | Robert & Sandra Tatge | Brent & Ann Michelson | Gerald & Joanne Beckett |
| Pamela Bass Bookey & Harry Bookey | Herb & Kathy Eckhouse | Ed & Nancy Truslow | Jeff Freude & Laurie Wolf |
| Craig & Kimberly Shadur | Angela Althoff | Tom Van Hon | James & June Rasley |
| Mike & Margaret Peterson | Bill & Virginia Satterstrom | Bob Furstenu & Valerie Landis | |

N. VALLEY CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

The construction you have been seeing on North Valley Drive is part of a pump station project for the Wastewater Reclamation Authority which will help control periods of high flows for the treatment plant. The project will divert portions of the flows coming from Urbandale, Clive, Windsor Heights, Waukee, West Des Moines and Des Moines and send them into a basin just south of Norwalk, where they will be held temporarily until released to the treatment plant for full treatment. Utilizing this diversion and storage of flows will reduce the overloading of the treatment plant and will protect the sewers throughout the system from overflows and damage.

The pump station that is being constructed at the east end of Winona will be under construction until late summer/early fall of 2014. There were three locations within the recreation trail network that were affected by this project, including some temporary closures, re-gradings, and surfacing. The permanent asphalt surfaces will be placed when the warmer weather comes as asphalt can't be placed in cold temperatures.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please feel free to call or email Nick Carter at 515-323-8135 or email nfcarter@dmgov.org

63RD AND GRAND BRIDGE UPDATE

It's news to no one that the Grand Avenue Bridge has been reopened. Thank you, Santa! The project, however, is not yet complete as there are still major items to finish as set forth below:

- A temporary gravel trail has been completed beneath the bridge to re-connect the Walnut Creek Trail. Users should be cautious when navigating as this remains an active construction site.
- Project detour signs have all been removed and the police officer at Hanawalt will no longer be present.
- The sidewalks across the Grand Avenue Bridge are not open until later in the spring due to temperature requirements for installation of the epoxy anchor bolts for the outside railing.
- Work continues to progress on creek channel related items with stream banks being reshaped.
- The final trail beneath the bridge, including a large amount of retaining wall, will be completed in spring, which will temporary re-closure of trail.
- Pedestrian railings on the bridge will be installed in the spring, as will approach sidewalks, final site grading, and seeding /sodding.
- The bridge still needs longitudinal grooving installed and West Des Moines may be making modifications to the flood gate.

Remaining work will require occasional lane closures, and, on a couple of occasions, full closure of bridge which city will attempt to limit to no more than one weekend day at a time. Questions about the remaining work and other bridge closure related questions can be directed to Ben Cole, Project Engineer, at 515.283.4176 or bmcole@dmgov.org.

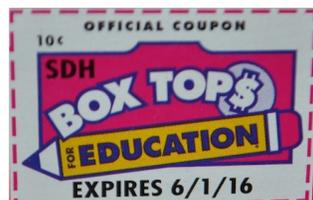
BOXTOP AND LABEL REQUEST

Most everyone has collected BoxTops for Education and Campbell's Soup labels for kids... but maybe after the children went away to college, the collection stopped.

Hanawalt is still collecting BoxTops for Education (www.boxtops4education.com), Labels for Education (www.labelsforeducation.com), and UPCs from Dahl's Best Choice products (www.awgbrands.com/savealabel.php).

Children on every block of Westwood will ensure they make it to the school. If you would rather leave them out for pick up, email or call Amy MacKrell at 440-2766 or amwalshmac@yahoo.com.

Please consider taking the time to assist Hanawalt with this endeavor. Last month, over \$200 was brought in...it all adds up!



WESTWOOD IN DEMAND!

The secret is out about how great our neighborhood is, and friends of the MacKrells (56th St) and Antonious (53rd St) have been looking for a house in Westwood but haven't found the right one yet.

If you were thinking about listing, maybe you can save some realtor's fees (though we'd hate to see you go!).

Call Amy at 440-2766 or Christy at 988-8662 if you're considering a change and they can put you in touch with a great couple with Westwood as their goal.