



Westwood News

WESTWOOD TO CREATE POLLINATOR GARDEN—YOU CAN HELP!

In 2007, the WNA voted to create a native plant garden at the corner of 56th and Welker. On May 22nd, the WNA voted to transform the corner into a pollinator garden in association with the Plant Grow Fly program spear-headed by the Blank Park Zoo. This program encourages city residents and neighborhoods to create such gardens throughout the city. More information on the zoo initiative is at www.blankparkzoo.com.

The goal of the transformation is: 1) to make the area more visually attractive; 2) to better serve the needs of bees, butterflies and other pollinators; and, 3) to use volunteer events at the garden as a learning center where neighborhood residents can learn difference between weeds and the invasive vegetation that should be removed from our gardens/yards and native and other plants that should be nurtured.

These goals will be accomplished through neighborhood volunteer events on the third Saturday of each month from 9:30 am - 11:30 am with such events continuing until the snow flies. The next few dates will be July 19, August 16 and September 20. Events are weather dependent and you can join the events in progress. All you need to bring are your gloves, and maybe a drink and your favorite gardening tool. Go Green.

Westwood Hosts Jazz in July on Sunday July 13

Join your neighbors for our 8th annual Jazz in July 6:30-8:30 on Sunday July 13 at Sylvan theater in Greenwood Park.

Enjoy the sounds of Janey Hooper and friends with Susie Miget and bring the kids to see Mel Shivers for fun activities. Don't forget to visit our vendors: Stam gelatto, Cheese shop, and Local Yocals are available. The event is free and open to all.

Annual Summer Social also on Sunday July 13

Come to our tailgating party at 5:00 pm before Jazz in July. Gazpacho, cheese shop cheese, and light refreshments will be served. Feel free to bring a treat to share, but your presence is all that is required.

New Neighbors on 52nd Street

Westwood extends a warm welcome to the Brandstad/Phillips family, who have recently moved onto 52nd St. All report being thrilled with the new neighborhood, with Tommy, the youngest extending this note to all of you. "Hello fellow residents, my name is Tommy Branstad Phillips.

I just moved in to 18 52nd Street with my brother (Sam) and my Parents (David and Christine). We are delighted to have moved into this new neighborhood. After moving here we were almost immediately acquainted with our new neighbors. They are all friendly and we really enjoy this new neighborhood so much that we don't miss our old one. My brother is 14 years old, so he just got his driving permit – watch out. I am 12 years old so you will see me on my scooter. If you have kids in the neighborhood, encourage them to drop by our house. Also, if you need dog sitting, my brother and I are happy to help."

THANKS TO OUR BLOCK CAPTAINS AND SUBSTITUTES

As always, the Westwood Neighborhood Association extends its strong thanks to our block captains for delivering our newsletter door to door, and the substitutes that fill in when schedules require. This newsletter was distributed by the neighbors listed below. You folks are the best.

Vicki Heiken, Block Captain Chair

Bill and Ginny Satterstrom

Adele VerSteeg

Barbara and Jim Bell

Lynn and Bill Heggen

Sarah Reichardt

Jim and Allison Fleming

John and Colleen Burgeson

Hal and Avril Chase

Scott and Diane Post

Tom and Dena Zisko

Kathy Ritzler

Marti Huber

Rob denHartog

Cheryl Pederson

CICADA HUNTERS IN WESTWOOD

The MacKrells on 56th Street were surprised by three visitors who asked to collect a few of the thousands of cicadas in their yard — visitors who had come from Japan!

Professor Jin Yoshimura and two assistants from Shizuoka University in Japan collected specimens and filled the family in on the two types of cicadas that were hatching in their yard—one of which, the professor noted, tastes very similar to shrimp when cooked.



TIPS FOR DEALING WITH OUR PERIODICAL VISITORS

If you are curious about Professor Yoshimura’s proclamation regarding their taste, **don’t eat them if you are allergic to seafood**. Both cicadas and shrimp are arthropods. In addition, you should know cicadas are bioaccumulators of mercury.

They’ll land on you if you’re using a power tool or lawn mower. Cicadas think the sounds made by power tools and lawn maintenance equipment are made by cicadas. They get confused and will land on the people using the equipment! **Pro-tip:** cut your lawn in the early morning or near dusk when the cicadas are less active.

Cicada Rain: It’s actually cicada “pee,” so wear a hat when walking under trees if that sort of thing bothers you. Cicadas drink tree fluids, and then expel the excess fluid they do not need.

They damage wimpy trees: the biggest concern about 17 year cicadas is their potential to damage young trees. If you have weak ornamental trees in your yard, you may consider placing netting around the trees, hosing them off with water, placing insect barrier tape around the trunk of the trees, or picking the cicadas off like grapes! In their defense, cicadas actually benefit the health of trees by aerating the soil around the roots.

NEW NEIGHBORS ON 51st St. WELCOME TO WESTWOOD!

New residents to 51st Street include Michelle and Mike Gartner who, along with their 3 ½ year old son Christopher Michael, recently moved to Westwood from Waterbury. A beautiful property in the part of town they love led the Gartners, along with their two indoor cats, to make the move. Welcome!

Do you have a new neighbor on your street? We’d like to know! Email Amy MacKrell at amwalshmac@yahoo.com (subject line: Westwood) with information and we’ll make sure they are acknowledged in the upcoming issues of The Westwood News.

JOIN THE UPCYCLE STEWARDS TO HELP GREENWOOD AND THE ZOO

Animals at the Blank Park Zoo want/need/love to eat fresh vegetation such as the invasive honeysuckle shrub, abundant in Greenwood Park, the oldest and most treasured park in the city. Honeysuckle blossoms and the bright, red berries are pretty but this aggressive species is rapidly taking over the natural habitat of our city parks' ecosystems.

Through the new UPCYCLE Stewards program, a partnership between Trees Forever and Des Moines Parks and Recreation, volunteers learn to identify invasive plant species and then help remove them from the park, allowing native plants to grow without competition. The harvest is then transported to the zoo as a feast for zoo animals. An additional goal of the program is to teach residents alternative native species to plant in gardens and yards instead of invasive species.

At the inaugural "work day" on Saturday, June 14, WNA residents and other volunteers, along with the park, zoo and conservation staff, removed a massive pile of trees, vines and shrubby growth from the park, enough to feed zoo animals for several days. A caravan to the zoo concluded the work session providing the opportunity to observe animals eating the day's harvest, and the vegetation collected was enough to keep the animals fed for several days!

If you missed the last opportunity, the remaining workdays have been set. The events will be held at Greenwood Park from 9 am to 12 pm. Signs will be there to direct volunteers.

- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 1

For more information on the UPCYCLE Stewards program, please contact Leslie Berckes, the Program Manager & Field Coordinator for Trees Forever at 515-681-2295 or lberckes@treesforever.org.

Stay tuned for work day e-mail reminders from Vicki.

—Margo Hutcheson



Nate, David and Tommy (the latter two from SW 52nd) help out Greenwood...and some giraffes and rhinos!

WESTWOOD BOARD OPENINGS

Do you like to meet new neighbors? Do you enjoy planning and participating in projects that help your neighborhood? Are you looking for a way to be more involved in the Westwood Neighborhood Association? Well, we have a deal for you!

This October, there will be two openings on the WNA Board. The Westwood Neighborhood Association Board has four elected positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. According to our By-Laws, the term cannot exceed three years.

Both Maria Sadden-Berry and Vicki Sehgal have served full terms as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, and are looking for neighbors who have an interest in becoming a Board member.

As WNA Secretary, you are responsible for attending the meetings, taking minutes and distributing information to members. As Treasurer, you are responsible for keeping the bank account up to date as membership dues come in or as expenses go out. This job also includes keeping the database of members current. Both titles include decision making and voting on events that impact our neighborhood and its members!

We hope you will consider running for a WNA board position. And don't worry; our election campaigns are only one day long and always nice.

— Vicki Sehgal, WNA Treasurer

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Thanks to all members who have paid their dues. Family membership is \$40 and individual is \$25. Need to join? You can make your check payable to WNA and mail it to Vicki Sehgal, WNA treasurer, 5125 Welker Ave, DSM IA 50312. Welcome and thank you to our newest members (noted by **).

Anderson, Will & Sara	Fleming, Jim & Allison	Melton, Mark	Spevak, James
Antoniou, George & Christy	Fox, Cynthia	Michelson, Brent & Ann	Strief, Charles & Peggy
Aspengren, Mary Lou	Freude, Jeff & Laurie Wolf	Moser, Paul & Susan	Swanson, Jon & Chelsea
Baldwin, Patricia	Fulton, Jay & Diane Kuhn	Mouw, Matthew & Mary	Tatge, Bob & Sandy
Bannister, Scott & Kathy	Furstenau, Bob & Valerie Landis	Moyer, Debra	Taylor, Dawn
Barr, Jud & Heidi	Galeazzi, Dennis & Nancy	Mullins, Dan & Laurie Meythaler	TeGrotenhuis, Jeff
Barzen, David & Kristy	Galenbeck, Scott & Leann Treloar	Munier, Shirley	Tempero, Howard & Megan
Bates, Dennis & Sally	Gartner, Mike & Michelle**	Murphy, John & Sharon	Thompson, Jeff & Dianna
Beane, Ron	Gleason, Lisa	Murphy, Kathy	Tiffany, Bill
Beard, Mary Ann	Gusse, Derek & Sarah	Norian, Randy & Anita	Tiffany, John & Laura Martino
Becker, Mike & Krista	Harman, Brett	Norland, Jim**	Townsend, Rod & Jenny
Beckley, Stephen & Gretchen	Heggen, Bill & Lynn	Pederson, Dennis & Cheryl	Tracy, Rob & Ann Steger
Bell, Jim & Barbara	Heiken, Thom & Vicki	Peterson, Mike & Margaret	Truslow, Ed & Nancy
Berry, Greg & Maria	Huber, Rory & Marti	Petrov, Vasil & Teodora	Uhl, Kiel & Lisa
Boesen, Bryan & Betsy	Hull-Jackson, Marg	Pokorny, David & Betsy	Van Hon, Thomas
Bookey, Harry & Pam Bass	James, Fred & Rose	Pollard, David & Stephanie	Vander Linden, Eric & Susan
Brown, Kendall & Diane Todd-Brown	Keehnle, Maureen	Pomerantz, Rose Lee	Ver Steeg, Dirk & Adele
Burgeson, John & Colleen	Keller, Mike & Rick Marura	Post, Scott & Diane	Voss, Zac & Sarah
Caldbeck, Garry & Debbie	Kelley, Enosh & Rachel	Rabinowitz, Sheldon & Roselind	Wallace, Sam & Sally
Campbell, Jan & Bo	Kelling, Celeste	Rasley, June	Walsh, Sharon
Cary, Daniel & Tiffani	Kenworthy, John & Lisa	Raymond, Chad & Brian Ryerson	Watson Fuller, Lori
Cawiezell, Jill	Kisch, Thomas & Margo Hutcheson	Reece, Mark & Barb	White, Toby & Ruth
Cervetti, Nancy	Krantz, Mary	Reichardt, Randy & Sarah	Wieland, John & Denise
Chase, Hal & Avril	Lem Mon, Jean	Renfroe, Don & Barbie Windsor	Williams, Ted
Church, Barbara	Lewellyn, Dustin	Reynolds, Dennis & Charlotte	Windsor, Stephanie
Clutter, Ryan & Vicki Sehgal	Leytham, Sheryl	Ricker, Ron & Kathleen	Winter, Kathy
Coffman, Garth & Celene Gogerty	Lien, Craig**	Ritzler, Kathy	Wirt, Brian & Kelly
Crandell, Mark & Kitty	Linebaugh, Jesse & Melissa	Roy, Peg	Wittmayer, Kreg & Emily Christensen
DeBord, Dave & Kristi Sutton	Lorber, Fred	Satterstrom, Bill & Ginny	Wolnerman, Michael & Missy
DenHartog, Rob & Brenda Currans	Lyford, Dick & Barb	Schroeder, Diane	Young, Linda
Downing, Wendell & Joyce	Mackaman, David & Laura	Scott, Debora	Zeiner, Andy
Dunn, Greg	MacKrell, Scott & Amy	Shadur, Craig	Zisko, Tom & Dena Goplerud
Eckhouse, Herb & Kathy	Malcomson, Rob & Ginny	Shannon, Zoe	Zuck, David & Amy
Engler, Joan	Mandelbaum, Justin & Li Zhao	Shields, Mickey & Emily Hajek	
Faber, Vern & Nancy	Marquardt, Steve & Sara	Smith, Val & Elizabeth	
Fisher, Bob	McGreevy, Jeanette	Snyder, Jim & Lisa	