

# WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association*



Bryan Bunton,  
WNA President

## *From the President!*

Wow, what a difference a hundred or so trees can make! There is no question that the recent "Green Bucket" reforestation effort will leave a lasting impression on our neighborhood for many years to come. It was a large undertaking to say the least. The event was spearheaded by longtime neighborhood advocate and WNA Director Emeritus CJ Stephens with assistance from more than 70 volunteers, including many residents and organizations like the City of Des Moines, Wells Fargo Green Team and the Girl Scouts of America. I want to personally thank everyone involved for making a tremendous difference and for adding to

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **Live from Waterbury!**

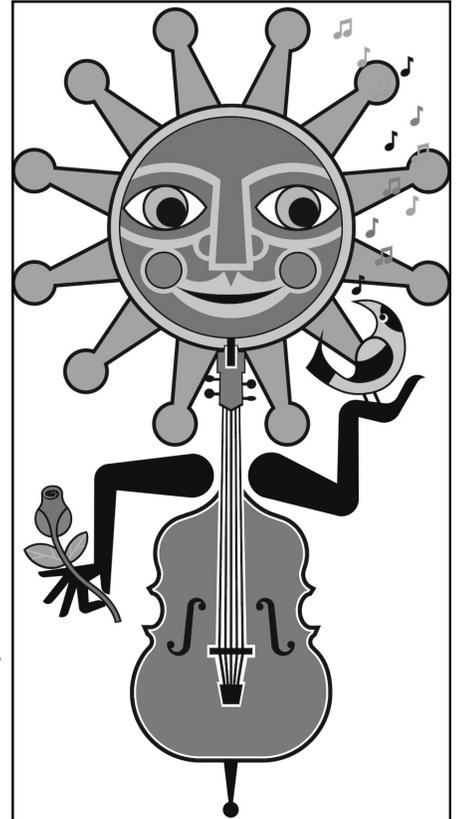
### **It's Jazz in July**

- ◆ *Thursday, July 26, 6 p.m.,  
Cornerstone Credit  
Union, 61st and Grand*

The cool sounds of hot jazz will be flowing freely from Waterbury as the popular Metro Arts Jazz in July series makes its debut stop here courtesy of Cornerstone Credit Union and the Waterbury Neighborhood Association.

"I can't think of a better event for Waterbury," said Bryan Bunton, WNA President. "First kick back on the lawn at Cornerstone for exceptional music while enjoying outstanding food and beverages. Then throw in fun activities for the kids and a chance to mingle with your friends and neighbors. It's a perfect recipe for a memorable summer evening."

Headlining the show is Equilateral, one of Iowa's most accomplished jazz quartets. Members Chris Merz on sax, Brent Sandy on trumpet, Greg Mazunik on bass and Eric Thompson on



drums will wow the crowd with a high energy style of jazz that depends heavily on improvisation and creativity. Winners of numerous individual music awards, members of Equilateral have played with some of the greatest names in jazz including Billy Taylor, Dave Bru-

*(Continued on page 5)*



## **Bucket Invasion!**

Certainly you've seen them everywhere, the bright green buckets. No, they aren't some science experiment gone wild, but rather an ingenious way to remind homeowners to water the new trees. Waterbury residents and area volunteers teamed up to plant 130 new trees of various species in April. **Feature story page 4.**

*<<< One of these in your yard? Fill with water at least once a week (twice a week if extremely hot and windy). Make sure the small hole in the side is unplugged and allowing water to flow into the tree. More page 4.*

**Don't cut the oaks!!!**  
*Read more on page 4.*

## WNA Bulletin Board & Community Calendar

### **National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 7 (BYOB - Bring Your Own Bike)**

America's night out against crime returns for a 29th year and will be observed here in Waterbury on Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the corner of Polk Boulevard and Ingersoll Avenue from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Stop by for some free ice cream, kids activities and learn more about crime prevention from a representative of the Des Moines Police Department. A group bike ride through the neighborhood will take place around 8 pm. Contact Bryan Bunton: 371-2890.

### **Oktoberfest is Back, Saturday, Oct. 6**

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, Oct. 6 and the third annual celebration of Oktoberfest in Waterbury. Close out the summer with lots of free food and beverages and family-fun activities. Check out our next newsletter for all the details.

### **Waterbury's Bus Service May be Cut Back**

Route 11 is our neighborhood's bus service, running on Ingersoll Avenue to and from downtown to Jordan Creek Mall. Based on current ridership, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) will cut back service to only morning and evening peak times starting in November. The proposed changes are not set in stone. If there are enough comments to DART from our neighborhood opposing the changes, we might be allowed to keep our current bus service. To comment, call (515) 283-8100 or visit [www.ridedart.com](http://www.ridedart.com), scroll to *Contact Us* and click on comment.

### **20 Great Reasons to Volunteer**

Your Waterbury Neighborhood Association is always looking for volunteers. So here's a little gem from [www.volunteermatch.com](http://www.volunteermatch.com) on why it feels so good to share your time and talent: **1)** Help others, **2)** Make a difference, **3)** Find purpose, **4)** Enjoy a meaningful conversation, **5)** Connect with your community, **6)** Feel involved, **7)** Contribute to a cause that you care about, **8)** Use your skills in a productive way, **9)** Develop new skills, **10)** Meet new people, **11)** Explore new areas of interest, **12)** Meet good people, **13)** Impress your mom, **14)** Impress yourself, **15)** Expand your horizons, **16)** Get out of the house, **17)** Make new friends, **18)** Strengthen your resume, **19)** Feel better about yourself, and **20)** Add your reason here!

### **And Speaking of Volunteers, Waterbury Wishes ...**

Every organization should think big and shoot for the stars, which starts with a wish list. From time to time, we'll share a few of our Waterbury Wishes here:

- We wish we had a donor to cover the cost of printing a Waterbury walking tour brochure since our grant application was turned down.
- We wish we had more volunteers to tend the main Waterbury garden at Polk Boulevard and Ingersoll Avenue.
- We wish we had a Social Chair that would get other fun-loving folks together to plan new events like our Secret Garden Tour.



## President (continued from page 1)

the quality of life that we enjoy and sometimes take for granted here in Waterbury. I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many of you who have recently planted trees on your own apart from the reforestation project. Unfortunately, various tree diseases and pests will continue their attack, so it is imperative that new trees get planted. With your efforts and the recent reforestation, we are off to a good start!

This is just a friendly reminder to residents to please continue to drive carefully so our streets remain safe. The kids are out of school for the summer, and there are plenty of pedestrians, bikers and pets out there enjoying the great weather. Thankfully we do not have to worry about increased traffic from the Grand Avenue bridge detour until next year. The city abruptly changed their plans and will close the bridge in 2013, but now for a shorter duration. We do try our best to keep residents informed of newsworthy issues like this via email, so if you are interested in receiving our blasts, please send an email to [jamcdou@us.ibm.com](mailto:jamcdou@us.ibm.com) to be added to the list.

Are you ready to tune in to Metro Arts Jazz in July? The event is scheduled for July 26th, and is co-hosted by our friends over at Cornerstone Credit Union. This is something new for our neighborhood, and I'm really looking forward to hearing some great music, grabbing a bite to eat, and just relaxing on a warm summer evening. Come on out and join us!

Sincerely,

Bryan Bunton

President, Waterbury Neighborhood Association

## Your WNA Board of Directors

Mission: The purpose of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association (WNA) is to enhance the quality of life, maintain the aesthetic appearance, and promote the historical nature and significance of the Waterbury community. The WNA was formed in 1995 to build community among neighbors and provide an organization that would help residents to work cooperatively on issues of interest and concern to residents.

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**We're all ears!** Share your comments with the *Waterbury News*:

**Steve Miller, Editor**

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 Ph: 255-9014  Email: [slm@wellandlaike.com](mailto:slm@wellandlaike.com).

## Music Under the Stars 66th Season

Music Under The Stars, a summer tradition in Des Moines, features central Iowa's top professional musicians. Sundays, 7 p.m., from the West Capitol Grounds free of charge: July 8: Des Moines Metro Concert Band, Metro Big Band; July 15: The Soya Vista Jazz Orchestra with Gina Gedler; July 22: Iowa Military Veterans Band

## Waterbury Gardens & Grounds Roundup

### 130 New Trees Find Good Homes During Waterbury Reforestation Project

You might have missed the trees, but you certainly couldn't miss all the volunteers and the green buckets, the telltale signs of a massive reforestation project on Saturday, April 21, to plant 130 new trees in Waterbury.

"With so many new invasive species harming our trees here, we just have to be aggressive about reforestation," said project leader CJ Stephens. "While I was thrilled with our turnout and the planting of 130 trees, this is only a good start. We could have planted 600 trees and still not completely reforest Waterbury."

The morning kicked off at Cornerstone Credit Union where Andrew Schmitz, General Manager of The Brenton Arboretum, demonstrated how to properly plant a bare-root tree. David Jahn, Des Moines' new municipal arborist, was also on hand to rally the troops.

More than 70 Volunteers then fanned out across the neighborhood to plant a variety of trees including: Linden, Kentucky Coffee, Crabapple, Tulip, Lilac, Sugar Maple, American Hawthorne, Swamp Oak and London Plane. Joining the team leaders from the Waterbury Neighborhood Association were 38 Waterbury Tree Stewards, 15 members of the Wells Fargo Green Team, eight girl scouts from Troop 661 and several city employees.

Total project cost is estimated at \$24,000, all made possible through previous donations and fundraisers for the Waterbury Neighborhood Association Foundation and Perpetual Care Fund.

"Special thanks are also due to Ralph Connor, the Board Certified Master Arborist who made sure we were planting the right trees in the right places," added Stephens. "Also to Laura Higgins and family, along with six neighborhood teenagers, who spent a recent weekend giving all the trees a quality check and installing tree guards."

We are also happy to report that Mother Nature and Waterbury residents are doing a great job of keeping the green buckets filled and the trees watered as we have only experienced four losses to date. But as the summer wears on and temperatures climb, be sure to keep filling those buckets at least once a week. And if it looks like a neighbor needs help, run a hose over. Future generations and neighbors will be forever grateful just as we are now to those who planted our beautiful Waterbury trees.

### Extra Help Provided by Dakota Persinger

In the days following the tree planting, the WNA hired Dakota Persinger to help finish staking the trees, clean up each site, and make sure each tree was watered and had a bucket. Dakota also owns a house, deck and driveway pressure cleaning service and asked us to pass along his telephone number: (515) 669-2856 or email [powerwashDSM@gmail.com](mailto:powerwashDSM@gmail.com).

### PLEASE: Don't Cut the Oaks!

The DNR advises that oak trees should only be pruned when they are dormant to prevent the spread of oak wilt that is very active in the neighborhood. The trees are at extreme risk this year (and extremely sensitive due to age and other pests, etc.) because of the early spring/summer and the very mild winter. Of course, if the tree presents a dangerous situation in any way, it can be pruned if the cut is sealed with latex paint. If an oak tree is in close proximity to other oaks that you want to protect, it is necessary to trench around the roots to prevent the spread of oak wilt due to root grafting (this can only be determined by an expert tree consultant). Please feel free to call CJ Stephens, (515) 577-0774 if you have further questions.

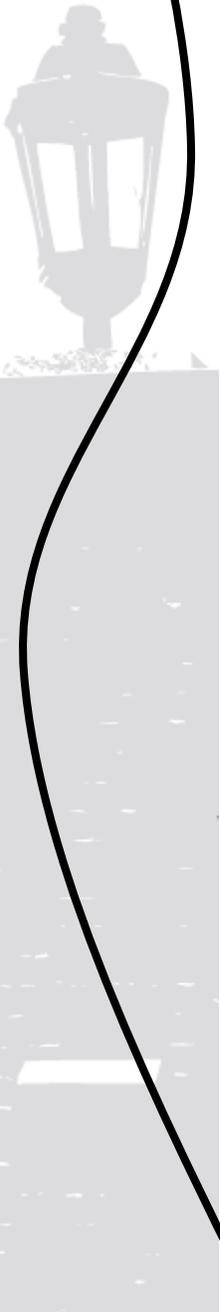


Girl Scouts from Troop 661 stepped up to the challenge and helped plant trees during our recent reforestation project. Shown left to right: Laura Higgins (Troop 661 co-leader), Jill Langebartles, Vivian Copley and Emma Walters.



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## Jazz in July (continued page 1)

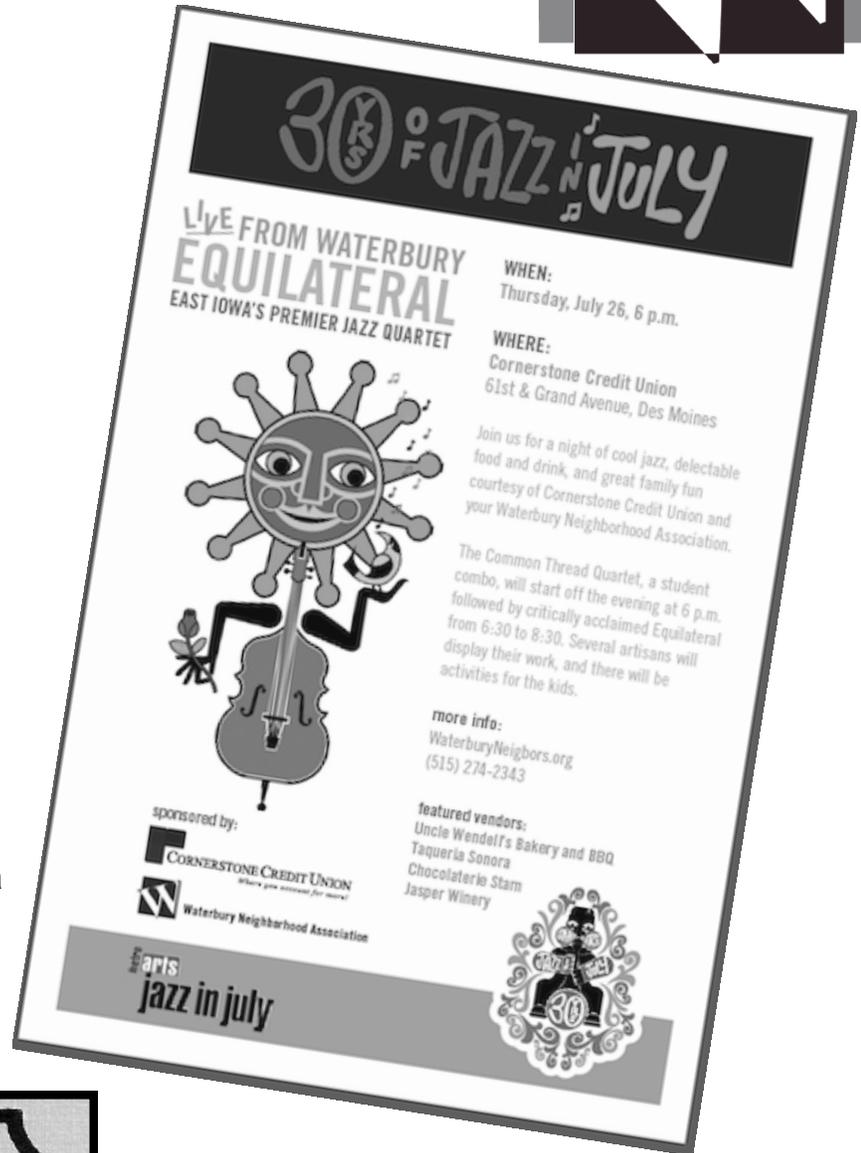
beck, Steve Swallow, Carla Bley and Donnie McCaslin, just to name a few.

The music will start at 6 p.m. with the first-ever appearance of the Common Thread Quartet, a student jazz group headlined by Drake University's Devin A. Van Holsteijn. Equilateral is on at 6:30 and will play until 8:30 with one intermission. Uncle Wendell's, Sonora's, Jasper Winery and Stam's will be on hand for food and drink. Various artisans will display their wares as well. Admission is free!

The concert will be held rain or shine on the great lawn located behind Cornerstone Credit Union just off 61st and Grand Avenue. Biking or walking is highly encouraged. Otherwise, parking will be available in the Junior Achievement parking lot at Grand and 61st, adjacent to Pal Joey's and on some nearby side streets.

"We are delighted to help bring Jazz in July to Waterbury," said Gary Key, CEO of Cornerstone Credit Union. "Great people who really care about the neighborhood are what make Waterbury special," he said, "and this is our chance to say thank you for allowing us to be a part of it all."

For more information and severe weather announcements, visit [www.WaterburyNeighbors.org](http://www.WaterburyNeighbors.org) or [www.CornerstoneCreditUnion.com](http://www.CornerstoneCreditUnion.com).



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## Volunteers Needed: Post or Pass Along the Enclosed Poster

Help us promote Jazz in July's first-ever stop in Waterbury. Post the enclosed poster at work, school or church. Or pass it along to a friend. And let us know if you would like additional copies to share, or if you would like to volunteer for other show activities. Call Steve at (515) 255-9014.

## Meet Our Newest Board Member

### *Melissa Stalvey Returns to Des Moines, Elected to WNA Board*



Originally from Maryland, Melissa Stalvey now calls Des Moines home.

Melissa Stalvey is originally from Maryland. While she resided in Des Moines from 1999 through 2004, she moved to North Carolina and Virginia before returning to Des Moines in 2010. She and her husband, Chris, and her two children, Matthew, 5, and Catherine, 3, are thrilled to be here, and Melissa is excited to be a new member of the WNA Board serving as membership director.

Melissa is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner although she is currently a full-time mom to Matthew and Catherine. They love all of the activities that come with growing up in Des Moines: the Science Center, the Blank Park Zoo and biking the local trails.

She explains, "Having lived in various cities across the country, I have been happy with the opportunities that Des Moines affords our family. Furthermore," she adds, "Chris and I love the natural beauty in our neighborhood."

As an avid quilter for many years, Melissa is a member of the Des Moines Quilt Guild. She is also on the board at West Side Early Education, where her children attend preschool.



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## Neighbors Hear Latest News from Several Speakers at WNA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is everyone's opportunity to keep up to date on the activities of the WNA Board of Directors and also receive pertinent information from the city of Des Moines and other individuals and groups on topics important to the neighborhood. Highlights from this year's meeting, held April 16th at Temple B'Nai Jeshurun, include:

- David Jahn, Des Moines city arborist and keynote speaker, discussed the value that trees bring to both neighborhoods and home owners. Interestingly, David shared that trees placed in the right-of-way add even more value to a property than those placed closer to the home.
- Christine Hensley, Ward 3 representative, updated neighbors about a proposed Bus Rapid Transport System and on several new businesses starting construction on Ingersoll Avenue.
- Lt. Joe Gonzalez with the Des Moines Police Department stated that the neighborhood will see an increased police presence during the Grand Avenue bridge closure and detour (now scheduled for 2013).
- Sara Thies, City of Des Moines Public Works Department, spoke about the Blue Cart Recycling Program and distributed information on what is and is not accepted. (No plastic bags please!)
- WNA Director Emeritus CJ Stephens explained the upcoming reforestation effort. (Please see page 4 for results!)
- WNA President Bryan Bunton recognized Keith Thornton and Bill Green for providing countless hours of service to the neighborhood and community, and to Bill Nassif for his accomplishments as WNA President in 2010.
- And finally, a guest appearance by Mayor Frank Cownie, who expressed thanks to anyone who provided input during the latest round of city budget discussions, and encouraged input from citizens in order to preserve and maintain services most needed and wanted by residents.



*Many Waterbury neighbors attended the WNA Annual Meeting, which featured a presentation on the value of trees to homeowners.*

Waterbury Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 12054  
Des Moines, IA 50312

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**Live from Waterbury!**  
**Jazz in July, Thursday, July 26.**  
**Details Inside!**



W a t e r b u r y  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION