

# WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association*



## *From the President!*

Greetings Waterbury neighbors! It's an honor to come before you this month as your new WNA president. The bar has been set high by those who have previously held this position and dedicated so much of their time and talent to Waterbury. My goal is to carry on the work they started while working with the board and you, our neighbors, to create new opportunities for Waterbury.

To that end, we dedicated our January board meeting to a list of BHAGs, also known as Big Harry Audacious Goals! Here's what we came up with:

- ◆ Continue reforestation projects and initiatives;

*(Continued on page 8)*

## **Annual Meeting April 7 Features IPR Hort Gang Member Richard Jauron**

If you are a tree or garden lover, concerned about recent burglaries in the neighborhood or interested in the latest news from the city and county, don't miss the 2013 Waterbury Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting. The action will start at 2 p.m., Sunday April 7, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, 5101 Grand Avenue in Des Moines.

Keynoting this year's lineup of speakers are Richard Jauron, ISU horticulture extension specialist and member of the "Hort Gang" heard on Iowa Public Radio's *Talk of Iowa*, and Erika Saalau, a graduate student in plant pathology and microbiology. The two will team up to talk about the pests that are felling our oak trees and how we care for the new trees we are planting to replace those mighty oaks. Bring your questions for Richard, the go-to guy for Iowa's home gardeners. Each year, Jauron answers more than 3,200 hotline calls (515-294-3108), more than 1,400 emails (hortline@iastate.edu), and writes a *Yard and Garden* column for the ISU Extension Service.

Also joining us will be Des Moines Police Lieutenant Joe Gonzalez with a special overview on recent burglaries that have plagued the Waterbury neighborhood. Gonzalez will fill us in on the severity of the problem and provide homeowners with tips on prevention.



**Richard Jauron,**  
member of IPR's  
popular *Hort Gang*



## **Salute to Bryan**

Bryan Bunton, pictured here with his wife Jen, will be leaving the WNA Board in April after six years of service. "I sincerely enjoyed every minute of my time with the Waterbury Neighborhood Association," Bryan said.

*<<< Read more about Bryan's service to Waterbury and his plans for the future, page 7.*

Rounding out the program will be Christine Hensley, Des Moines City Council, and Angela Connolly, Polk County Board. Hensley will provide an update and answer questions about the Grand Avenue bridge project. Connolly will provide an overview on county activities involving the neighborhood. A Q&A will follow all presentations.

## WNA Bulletin Board & Community Calendar

### Neighbors Brace for Grand Avenue Bridge Project

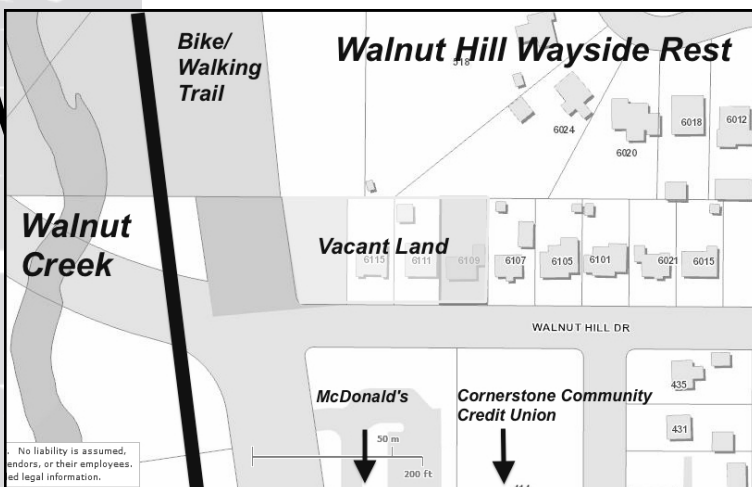
After a year of utility work, the Grand Avenue bridge at the corner of 63rd Street is scheduled for demolition and replacement starting March 25. The three-span, earth-filled, concrete arch bridge was constructed in 1914 and structural repairs are not feasible. The new bridge will maintain the same lane configuration with the bike trail routed beneath the bridge. The original design of the new bridge called for a sidewalk on only the south side of the bridge with a secondary turn lane. However, the WNA lobbied the City Council successfully for sidewalks on both sides of the bridge to maintain convenient access to nearby businesses. The city will build the bridge to support a second turn lane and revisit the design in the future to determine if a secondary turn lane is needed.



WNA is also working closely with the city on traffic safety. The detour will route traffic from Grand Avenue north to University, utilizing either 56th Street or 63rd Street. "This will mean a lot more traffic than usual in our neighborhood," said WNA President Steve Miller. "Kids, pedestrians and bikers will need to be extra careful this summer due to increased traffic and drivers who may not be familiar with neighborhood streets." The city will be providing additional traffic enforcement for the area during the project, including an off-duty officer at Hannawalt Elementary during school arrival/dismissal.

The bike trail will be detoured on site over Grand Avenue. Bikers are urged to use caution when going through the construction zone. Increased noise and dust could also impact those in the immediate area, especially during early construction when the new foundations are being drilled into the bedrock.

For traffic enforcement issues, residents may call the Police Department's non-emergency number at (515) 283-4811. For construction or project-related questions, please contact Ben Cole, city project engineer at (515) 283-4176 or [bmcole@dmgov.org](mailto:bmcole@dmgov.org). The project is scheduled for completion in November of this year. Several lanes of traffic may be open as early as September.





## Bulletin Board *(continued)*

"At this stage, we're really interested in hearing from neighbors," said WNA President Steve Miller. "Both the city and the county have offered to help us improve the space, but we'll ultimately be responsible for a lot of the upkeep. However, this could be a great opportunity to add a public open space to a neighborhood that doesn't have a lot of open space."

If you have thoughts or ideas for a possible Walnut Creek Rest Area, send them to [news@waterburyneighbors.org](mailto:news@waterburyneighbors.org) or call Steve Miller at (515) 255-9014.

## The Finials Are Coming!

Finials are those decorative markers you often see perched atop street signs, and soon Waterbury will have its own finials thanks to the generosity of neighbors who opened their gardens to the public for the 2010 Secret Garden Tour. Depending on final bids, approximately 50 to 60 finials will be installed on street signs at entry-way intersections and along thoroughfares. The markers will feature the word "Waterbury," and will be designed in keeping with the historic nature of the neighborhood. We'll unveil the design in future newsletters and emails. For more information, contact Megan Furnal at (515) 720-4906.



*Follow us on Facebook!*

## 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.

**Steve Miller** – President & Newsletter (515) 255-9014  
[slm@wellandlake.com](mailto:slm@wellandlake.com)

**Bryan Bunton** – Immediate Past President (515) 371-2890  
[bryan\\_bunton@yahoo.com](mailto:bryan_bunton@yahoo.com)

**Alice Peterson** – Secretary & Gardens (515) 255-2477  
[alicevp207@aol.com](mailto:alicevp207@aol.com)

**Diane Becker** – Treasurer (515) 619-9218  
[dianebecker@aol.com](mailto:dianebecker@aol.com)

**Steve Balderson** – Trails & Environmental (515) 279-3930  
[cc4915@hotmail.com](mailto:cc4915@hotmail.com)

**Megan Furnal** – At-Large (515) 720-4906  
[meganfurnal@gmail.com](mailto:meganfurnal@gmail.com)

**Bill Nassif** – Past President (515) 274-8159  
[bnassif60@gmail.com](mailto:bnassif60@gmail.com)

**Melissa Stalvey** – Membership (515) 537-8246  
[maj228@hotmail.com](mailto:maj228@hotmail.com)

**Emily Boyd** – At-Large (641) 780-1673  
[emilyboyd12@gmail.com](mailto:emilyboyd12@gmail.com)

**Barb Andersen** – At-Large (515) 279-0081  
[bjander@vandals.uidaho.edu](mailto:bjander@vandals.uidaho.edu)

**CJ Stephens** – Director Emeritus (515) 577-0774  
[fostersdc@aol.com](mailto:fostersdc@aol.com)

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

**Steve Miller, Editor**

P.O. Box 12054

Des Moines, IA 50312

Ph: 255-9014 Email: [news@WaterburyNeighbors.org](mailto:news@WaterburyNeighbors.org)

## Don't Miss Important Neighborhood News: Follow WNA on Facebook, the Web and Email

Like us on Facebook, visit us at [www.WaterburyNeighbors.org](http://www.WaterburyNeighbors.org) and sign up for our email newsletter to stay on top of the latest neighborhood happenings. Emily Boyd, curator of our Facebook page, says, "Come join the discussion and post your questions and comments. It's a great place to get connected with fellow neighbors!" To find us, just visit Facebook and search for Waterbury Neighborhood.



## Gardens & Grounds Roundup

### Attention All Garden Lovers: We Need You!

- Cleanup Day, Saturday April 20, 9 a.m.
- Planting Day, Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m.

A sure sign of spring in Waterbury are neighbors busy at work preparing our public gardens for another summer of blazing glory! But these beautiful gardens, admired by many as the standard for other neighborhoods in the city, are only possible with your help!

So please join us for spring cleanup day this year scheduled for Saturday, April 20, from 9 to 11 a.m., starting at the gardens on Ingersoll Avenue and Polk Boulevard. Bring a rake and gloves. We'll work for awhile and then enjoy some pastries and coffee!

We will then be planting our annuals on Saturday, May 18 at 9 a.m. The annuals are provided by the Des Moines Parks Department. The WNA plants in three sites: 1) Polk and Ingersoll led by WNA Garden Chair Alice Peterson, 2) End caps on Polk led by George Mosley and his team, and 3) 56th Street and Waterbury Circle and the planter at 56th and I-235 under the leadership of John Hallman.

No experience is required. And participation offers the opportunity to meet new neighbors, share and gain gardening experience, get fresh air and exercise and take pride in being a part of the Waterbury neighborhood. This year we'll likely be spreading mulch also to decrease our watering needs.



*You too can have fun like these Waterbury neighbors during spring cleanup!*



Many of you have already indicated your interest in volunteering in the gardens on your WNA membership forms. We'll be contacting you before the clean up and planting dates as a reminder. You can also just drop by if you have time to help or contact Alice Peterson at (515) 255-2477 for more information.

### Important Reminders on Spring Tree Care

Here are several spring tree-care reminders from CJ Stephens, ISU Community Tree Steward:

- 1) Please DO NOT prune oaks trees until next winter when the trees are dormant. Buds are now appearing and the possible spread of oak wilt is imminent. Of course, it's okay to prune if the trees are a hazard, but seal the wound immediately with latex house paint.
- 2) Keep posted on rainfall. Young trees three years old or less require an inch a week, including rainfall. If you received and/or planted a new tree last year, start watering now! Two, five-gallon buckets a week, if no rainfall.
- 3) Many mature trees are very stressed from age and the extended draught in our area. Check the ISU or IDNR websites for research-based information. Usually if wa-

*(Continued next page)*



## Garden & Grounds *(continued)*

tering restrictions are imposed, they are on watering grass, not trees.

- 4) If you are planning construction, request that a protection barrier be in place to protect your trees. The barrier should extend out to the tree canopy, thus protecting the trees feeding roots that are less than 12 inches below the surface. No equipment or materials should be allowed inside the area.

In addition to the above, note that our urban forest is being threatened by five emerging threats ... gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, bur oak blight, thousand cankers disease of black walnut and the Asian long-horned beetle. Some have called the combination of all the above THE PERFECT STORM that threatens all Iowa tree communities. Please attend the WNA Annual meeting for more information.

And finally, please pass this information on to your new neighbors. We must all be on the front line to protect the beautiful *Trees of Waterbury*.

### Green Bucket Tree Planting Initiative: Part II

Last year the WNA, the city of Des Moines and more than 70 volunteers planted 130 new trees in Waterbury, leaving behind those ubiquitous green buckets. Well, we are delighted to report that Municipal Arborist David Jahn is working on getting us another 60 to 65 tall trees for planting this spring.

"Our neighborhood tree canopy is disappearing due to pests and severe weather," said CJ Stephens, organizer of last year's tree planting effort. "This is really only a start in replacing all the trees we've lost."

To volunteer for this year's planting extravaganza planned for late April or early May, send your name and phone number to [news@waterburyneighbors.org](mailto:news@waterburyneighbors.org). Or call Steve Miller at (515) 255-9014.

Thank you!

### GET YOUR SPRING BREAK!

With rates as low as **1.99%** for up to 60 months

OR **2.99%** for 72 months (some exclusions apply)

Call for details

Put a spring in your step and some money in your wallet when you finance your auto loan with us. We'll give you a **\$100 Visa gift card** when you finance your auto purchase or re-finance your existing loan with someone else, to us.

Offer good on 2010 or newer autos and must finance \$10,000 or greater.



414 61 ST, DES MOINES IA 50312 \* 515-274-2343

## Dandelions Don't Cause Cancer

### ***"Wisescaping" Solutions for Waterbury Homeowners and Gardeners***

By Barb Andersen, WNA Board Member

Wisescaping — a landscaping approach that uses water-efficient, aesthetically-pleasing, and environmentally-beneficial landscaping — will be featured this year in the Waterbury neighborhood. As last year was a record for heat and drought in most of Iowa, including Des Moines, and similar conditions are expected in 2013, we think it would be good to reduce water use through efficient landscaping. On-site retention of water can also help mitigate storm water and water quality issues in the Des Moines region. What's not to love?

The term Wisescape was first used in 2008 by the city of Moscow, Idaho, to promote water-conserving landscapes.

Wisescape design characteristics:

- Aesthetically pleasing (looks nice during various seasons)
- Practical (designed for efficient resource use)
- Limit traditional turf (limited use of turf and/or use of water-conserving varieties)
- Plant zoning (plants with similar needs together, appropriately placed)
- Efficient or lack of irrigation (manual and/or automatic; creative capture/reuse systems)

Wisescape benefits include reduced resource use such as:

- Water savings (reduced volume during peak season)
- Less mowing (savings in energy and fuel; reduction in biomass for disposal)
- Labor savings (savings in time and/or money)
- Fertilizer savings (diminished leaching of fertilizer into surface and storm water systems)
- Pesticide savings (diminished leaching of pesticides into surface and storm water systems)
- Reduction in yard waste (on-site retention and/or composting)

Watch for wisescaping tips and best practices in future WNA newsletters. Next year we will recognize individuals, households, businesses, public buildings or public land, or anyone in the Waterbury neighborhood who sets an excellent example for aesthetics and conservation!

For more information, contact Barb Andersen at (515) 279-0081.



*A "wisescaped" yard and garden*





## Bunton Proud of Board Achievements During Six Years as WNA Member and President

Bryan Bunton and his wife Jennifer moved to the Waterbury neighborhood from Windsor Heights in 2007. He began his term with the WNA board of directors shortly thereafter.

"I was excited to get started, but looking back, had no clue what I was getting into," said Bryan. He served in the capacity of Secretary until 2010, when he moved to the position of Vice President. In 2011, Bryan took over for Bill Nassif as President of the WNA.

From 2011 through 2012, the WNA had several notable accomplishments:

- Successfully lobbied the city of Des Moines for a sidewalk on the north side of the new Grand Avenue Bridge, with construction to be completed this year;
- Collaborated with Cornerstone Community Credit Union to bring a bigger and better Oktoberfest celebration to the neighborhood each year;
- Planted more than 100 new trees in the neighborhood (initiative spearheaded by CJ Stephens);
- Held annual National Night Out events, strengthening the relationship with the Police Department and helping to put the spotlight on crime prevention;
- Revised and updated the WNA and Waterbury Neighborhood Foundation bylaws; and,
- Grew WNA paid membership to an all-time high.

"I'm proud of what we were able to achieve," says Bryan. "I personally give all the credit to the board of directors, who were and continue to be an extremely dependable group who work hard to reach their goals."

Bryan added, "I sincerely enjoyed every minute of my time with the WNA. My term was extremely rewarding in that I was able to meet so many new people, and also in knowing that you are making tangible improvements to the neighborhood that not only current residents can appreciate, but future generations as well."

When asked of his future plans, Bryan noted "My wife and I love it here. As far as the future goes, I plan to continue to help out in any capacity that I can, whether that is volunteering at the gardens and social events, helping to plant trees, or whatever I can do to help maintain the high quality of living that we enjoy here in Waterbury!"

In other words, we'll happily see plenty of Bryan in the months and years to come.



*Bryan Bunton chatting with a neighbor during the 2012 Oktoberfest celebration.*

## Thank You to Our Sustaining Members

The Waterbury Neighborhood Association annual membership drive, which was kicked off at the Third Annual Oktoberfest, has been a great success. We currently have 226 households that have renewed their memberships. This represents about 50 percent of our registered members.

Thank you to all who have renewed! Your support of WNA is what helps Waterbury remain such a desirable place to call home.

Over the next few newsletters, we will be recognizing all of our current members. This month we will be focusing on our Sustaining (10-year) and Lifetime Members. This level of membership is achieved with a donation of \$250 or \$500 respectively.

- Dan & Melinda Berte
- Bill & Patti Brown
- Kim DeBok
- Louis & Rebekah DeWild
- Mike & Michelle Gartner
- Marvin & Virginia Gilliland
- Bill & Jan Green
- Kevin & Sheryl Grimm
- David Perret & Andrea Hauer
- Bill & Mary Holtze
- David & Gerrienne Jordan
- Neal & Holly Logan
- Doug & Kate Massop
- Bill & Joan Nassif
- Richard & Cleojean Olson
- George & Joan Sullivan
- Ron & Jane Wittenwyler

Our neighborhood association is supported by each household being a paying member of WNA. Please remember to renew your membership!

## President *(continued from page 1)*

- ♦ Organize and stage a major fundraiser for the WNA foundation to improve Waterbury common spaces;
- ♦ Organize and support social activities to build community; and,
- ♦ Launch a project that promotes and celebrates the history of Waterbury.

As you will note elsewhere in this newsletter, I think we are off to a good start on all of these BHAGs. We're working on plans to plant more trees, upgrade the Waterbury gardens and introduce an eco-friendly approach to yard and garden care called "wisescaping." Thanks to the generosity of neighbors who opened their gardens for the 2010 Secret Garden Tour, we will soon have historic finials for our street signs. WNA and the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association are teaming up for a blowout Jazz in July this summer at scenic Waveland Golf Course. And we have a great opportunity to add a new rest area along the Greenwood Trail near Walnut Creek.

Do you have BHAGs you would like to share with neighbors and the WNA Board? Then join us for our Annual Meeting on April 7, 2 p.m., at the Temple B'Nai Jeshurun. We'll open up the floor to your thoughts and suggestions. Plus, you'll hear the latest neighborhood news from city leaders and others.

We will also be recognizing Bryan Bunton and Bill Nassif as they leave the board after completing six years of outstanding service to the WNA and Waterbury. Both served terms as our two most recent presidents, leaving me with a tough act to follow.

Please feel free to contact me any time you want to discuss your thoughts on the future of Waterbury. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and in the neighborhood throughout the months to come.





## Meet Your New WNA Board Members

### ***Megan Furnal: Iowa Native and Four-Year Waterbury Resident***

Megan Furnal recently joined the WNA board of directors to meet more Waterbury neighbors, and is heading up the project to create and install the historic finials on our street signs.

A native of Carlisle, Iowa, Megan attended William Penn University in Oskaloosa to play soccer. Today she is a licensed realtor with Keller Williams Realty of Greater Des Moines.

"I have been in Waterbury for four years," Furnal said, "and live with my fiancé Dustin. We are getting married at the Salisbury House, one of our favorite places to frequent together."

In her free time, Megan enjoys the local art and music scene in Des Moines. She especially loves supporting the annual 80/35 Music Festival.



*Megan Furnal*

In addition to the finials, Megan will also be updating the WNA website at WaterburyNeighbors.org. "My plan with the Waterbury website is to keep it updated regularly with information that will help bring the neighborhood together," she said.

### ***Barb Andersen: Protecting the Environment One Commuter at a Time***

Barb Andersen joins the WNA board with extensive experience in making cities better, greener places to live. An environmental planner, Barb is currently employed as public transportation planning and policy manager with the Transportation Management Association within the Downtown Community Alliance.

"We're saving the world by influencing people who work in downtown Des Moines to drive less and live more by taking 'alternative' transportation, which seems 'regular' to me," she said with a smile. That includes carpools, vanpools, buses, bicycles and walking, she said, and by helping downtown Des Moines be more sustainable.



*Barb Andersen*

Andersen describes herself as a "daughter, granddaughter, niece, intentional non-parent, friend, neighbor, colleague, bicyclist, pedestrian, bus rider, vegetarian/vegan, devoted to animals and plant communities, researcher and teacher of urban planning and landscape architecture." Andersen is also heading up our effort to introduce "wisescaping" to Waterbury (see page 6) and will be helping Megan Furnal with the website.

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

---



**Annual Meeting Sunday, April 7.  
See Inside for More Details!**



W a t e r b u r y  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION