

WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association



Calling All Time Travelers

Have you thought about Waterbury in 2064? If we were suddenly transported in time to the corner of Harwood and Polk or 56th and Waterbury Road, what would we see?

We pondered these questions at our recent board meeting, wondering what we might do to ensure that Waterbury not only looks much like it does today but has actually been improved for the generation of 2064.

Can we better link our neighborhood to the renowned Des Moines Art Center by enhancing pedestrian access at Grand and Polk? What would it take to build a public/private coalition to beautify west access to our

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Trail Creek Cleanup

Waterbury neighbors and volunteers from "Mission to the City" will be teaming up to beautify the Waveland Trail creek during Memorial Day weekend.

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Annual Meeting April 6: The Emerald Ash Borer Is Coming!

- *Agenda Also Includes Updates from Des Moines School District, Police and City Officials*

As the emerald ash borer descends on Des Moines, tree lovers have been scrambling for guidance on how to protect trees in their neighborhood. If you're one of those tree lovers or have any other tree concerns, you won't want to miss the Waterbury 2014 Annual meeting on Sunday, April 6, starting at 2 p.m. at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

David Jahn, Des Moines Municipal Arborist, will keynote a special presentation on the city's battle plan for the ash borer invasion, which threatens an estimated 120,000 trees on private property and 7,000 on public streets. He'll include recommendations for homeowners with ashes on their properties as well as other diseased trees, including oak wilt and bur oak blight.

Also joining us will be **Officer Chuck Guhl**, neighborhood liaison from the Des Moines police department, to discuss crime in Waterbury. We'll hear an update on criminal activity since last year and how neighbors can protect themselves and help police prevent crime.



David Jahn, Municipal Arborist, Keynote Speaker

Bill Good, Chief Operations Officer for the Des Moines Public Schools, will review district plans that impact Waterbury. Council Member **Christine Hensley** and other city officials will be on hand with the latest from city government. Hensley will recap recent budget dis-

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WNA Bulletin Board & Community Calendar

News Update from the Des Moines City Council



By Christine Hensley, City Council

A big thanks to you all for your support of the franchise fee. An overwhelming vote of 85 percent in favor far exceeded our most optimistic projections. As a result, the City Council approved a budget on March 10 with no increase in the tax rate. I will discuss the city's budget at the annual meeting.

DART Ridership Up

More people are riding DART as bus service expands. Ridership increased more than 7 percent in the first six months of fiscal year 2014, compared to the same period of fiscal year 2013. This is good news and is part of a national trend. Ridership totaled 347,213 in December - a 15 percent increase over December 2012.

Planning trips by transit is easier than ever with the new MyDART Trip Planner, available online in desktop and mobile versions at www.ridedart.com. DART's bus schedules are also available on Google Maps and Bing Maps. Later this year, real-time location information will be added to the MyDART Trip Planner.

63rd and Grand Avenue Bridge

Continued work on the new Grand Avenue bridge will start after April 1 once frost is out of the ground. The contractor needs to complete the trail grading, trail paving, retaining walls, outside rails, permanent markings, deck grooving, flood gate work, side-walks and other restoration work, including removal of steel beams (these large beams will not be part of the final project). It is anticipated that it will take the contractor until late June to finish these items. Weather will still be an issue, especially rain. There may be some lane restrictions but the bridge will remain open throughout the project.

Feel free to contact me at 202-9677 or by e-mail at hensley.chrissteve@gmail.com.

Greenwood Park to Get a New Shelter; Wading Pool to Close

City staff recently announced that the open air shelter in Greenwood Park will be transformed to a new enclosed rental shelter. According to the city, there are currently nine other enclosed shelters in the park system that are near full capacity. Unfortunately the wading pool near this shelter will be closed for the summer to protect park patrons in and around the construction site.



Drawing of new shelter in Greenwood Park.

Rehabbers Club to Hold Window Restoration Workshop

The Des Moines Rehabbers Club will be hosting a hands-on window restoration workshop April 25 and 26, featuring restoration expert David Wadsworth, who will teach a

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President *(continued from page 1)*

neighborhood from Grand and 63rd? Is there some way we could take advantage of the city's offer to create a rest area along the Walnut Creek Trail at Walnut Hill Drive and 62nd?

Are there ways to commemorate the neighborhood's historic treasurers by establishing a walking tour of notable homes and spaces? Will there be hustle and bustle for an upcoming community celebration like Oktoberfest, the Luminary Festival or another Secret Garden Tour? What will we do to enhance our public gardens at Ingersoll and Grand, 56th and Pleasant, 56th and Waterbury Circle and along Polk Boulevard? Have we done all we can to protect our signature tree canopy for future generations of Waterburyans?

So what do you think? Do any of these ideas fire you up? Interested in getting involved? Join us then on April 6 at 2 p.m. for our annual meeting at the Temple B'Nai Jeshurun. We'll take time during the business portion of our meeting and travel to a Waterbury 2064 that we would all be proud to visit.

Windows *(continued from page 2)*

group of up to 20 people how to repair and weatherize wood windows from start to finish. Participants will work on salvaged window sashes with tools and learning materials they'll get to take home. For more information, visit the Rehabbers Club website www.RenovatedDSM.org/.

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

Rex Batson, Editor

✉ P.O. Box 12054

Des Moines, IA 50312

☎ Ph: 777-2336 📧 Email:

news@WaterburyNeighbors.org

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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2014 Board Meeting Schedule

The meetings of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association Board of Directors are open to neighbors. Dates and times are listed below. Contact Steve Miller at 255-9014 for details.

Date	Time	Location
April 20 Annual Mtg.	2 P.M.	Temple B'Nai Jeshurun 5101 Grand Avenue
May 22	6 P.M.	701 56th Street
June 22	2 P.M.	5420 Harwood Drive
July 24	6 P.M.	690 56th Street
August 21	6 P.M.	690 56th Street
September 21	2 P.M.	5605 Waterbury Road
October 23	6 P.M.	5420 Harwood Drive
November 16	2 P.M.	701 56th Street
December 18	6 P.M.	5605 Waterbury Road

Garden & Grounds Roundup

Spring Cleanup Planned for the Gardens, Waveland Trail Creek

- Garden Cleanup Day, Saturday April 26, 9 a.m.
- Planting Day, Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m.
- Creek Cleanup, Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.

Outdoor lovers will have several opportunities to help beautify Waterbury this spring with several projects on the schedule. First up is the garden spring cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 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!

Next, we will be planting our annuals on Saturday, May 17 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.

Then as part of their "Mission to the City," a crew of volunteers from Walnut Creek Church will be teaming up with Waterbury Neighbors to clean up trash along the small creek that runs next to the Waveland Trail from the point where it flows under I-235 to where it empties into Walnut Creek. The group will meet at the bridge on Pleasant Drive on Saturday, May 24, ready to start at 9 a.m. In addition, we plan to mulch the trees that have been planted over the last few years in the oak savannah area on the old entrance ramp at 56th St. and Pleasant Drive.



Waveland Trail creek looking south from Pleasant Drive.



The gardens at Ingersoll and Polk, ready for spring cleanup.

No experience is required to participate in any of these outings, only a desire to get some fresh air, a little exercise and meet your neighbors. Old clothes and heavy gloves are recommended. Respond to news@waterburyneighbors.com or contact either Alice Peterson at 255-2477 or Dave Johnson at 423-3810 to volunteer.

The Emerald Ash Borer is Coming to Waterbury: Here's What You Should Know

We have heard about this invasive species for several years, but now it is becoming reality. The pest has been found in five counties in Iowa (the closest currently identified is Creston, Iowa), and the quarantine is just three

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counties away. By the time this newsletter is published, the quarantine may be expanded to include Des Moines.

The number of ash trees in Des Moines that will need removal is staggering. It is estimated that there are 6,000 ash trees lining our right-of-way streets, and an estimated 1,100 park ash trees in the mowed areas that encompass buildings, play structures and activity areas.

This is a total of 7,100 trees of potential high impact to citizens. There is an estimated additional 40,000 ash trees in forested areas of our parks and along our borders. The City of Des Moines is working on a plan to address treatment or removal of many of these trees. And these totals do not include the estimated 120,000 ash trees on private property distributed over 84,000 households.

For more information on identifying your trees or a suspect tree, be sure to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m., at Temple B'Nai Jeshurun. Or check out www.emeraldashborer.info. If you suspect that you have an infected tree contact ISU Extension (515) 294-1101; IDNR (515) 281-5918 or IDALS (515) 725-1470.

Pruning Planned for New Trees

Be on the lookout for WNA volunteers out and about pruning the "green-bucket" trees planted two years ago. It's time now to give them a trim so they will continue to grow straight and full well into adulthood. As we are often reminded, young trees are like children and need equal measures of nurture and discipline to thrive in life!

But Don't Prune the Oaks

Please don't prune your oaks from now until October! The last time we did a tree invento-

ry more than 10 years ago, the neighborhood was 80 per cent oak. Now because of age and disease it is much lower, of course, so we need to take special care of the oaks we have left as well as the new plantings coming up.

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Meet Tom McBride, Our Newest Board Member



Tom McBride, a long-time Des Moines native and Waterbury resident, recently joined the Waterbury Neighborhood Association Board of Directors.

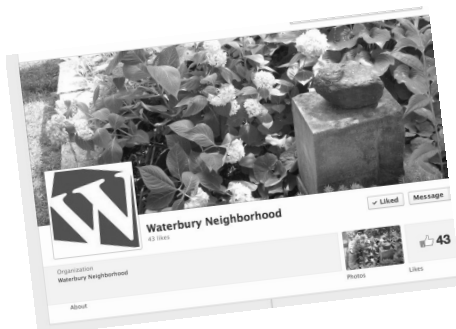
McBride, a 1973 graduate of Roosevelt High School, has been a regular at many past neighborhood events. An avid home gardener, Tom has often shared his skills tending to the Waterbury gardens. He served as a Southern Gentleman during the 2010 Secret Garden Tour. And Tom rarely misses our neighborhood celebrations, including last year's Jazz in July concert where he showed off his considerable Latin dance skills!

Tom also gives of his time to others. For the past 11 years, he has participated in the reading/mentoring program called Everybody Wins at Windsor Elementary.

During the work week, Tom manages his own investment planning firm called Monetary Strategies founded in 1986. He has been in the investment business for 34 years.

We are delighted to have Tom on the Board and look forward to the knowledge and experience he will bring to our association.

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“Thank You!” Renewing Members

As our 2014 membership drive comes to a close, we want to recognize these neighbors and all of you who renewed your membership. We now have more than 300 supporting members in the association. Our goal is to someday enlist all 1,100 households in Waterbury.

Bill & Mary Holtze, Lifetime Sustaining
 Jeff Aden
 Brad & Sally Barrett
 Barbara Bennett & Craig Warner
 Russell & Kathleen Bitterman
 Dale & Patricia Bordt
 Ron & Eileen Bowerman
 Carrie Brugger
 Kevin Burns
 John & Barbar Cortesio
 David & Cheryl Dahlquist
 Gary & Jane Dodge
 Richard & Debbie Doyle
 Dave & Anne Gaer
 John Gaich
 Kathy Garton
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 Todd & Mary O'Brien

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 Emily Piper & Wayne
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 Ellen Pirro
 Eric Nemmers & Troy Price
 Artis Reis & Mark Smith
 Steve Rowe & Lulu Hlavin
 Gene Rosenberger
 Kary & Kathleen Schulte
 Danielle Slifka & Kailos Kirby
 Blair & Mary Smith
 Todd Smith
 Lora Lee Spiro
 David Lingwall & Sheila Starkovich
 Mariella & Pierre Theuma
 Sandra & Richard Wacha
 John & Priscilla Watkins
 Jeff & Malaura Werling
 Jim & Connie Lee Whalen

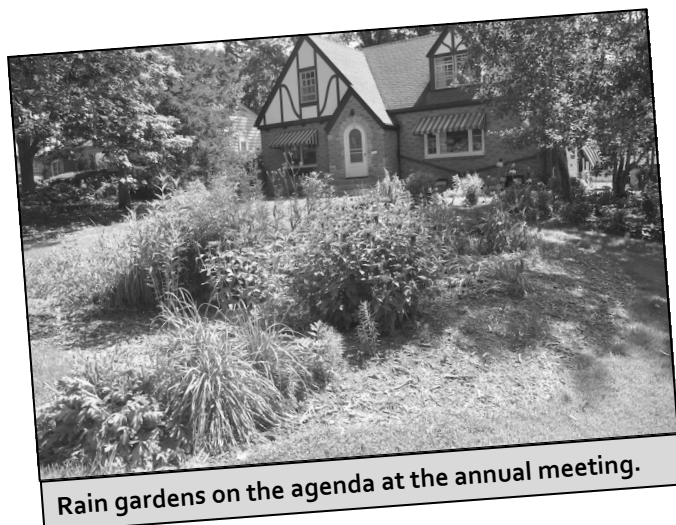
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cussions, including the impact of the recent citywide vote on the franchise fee.

We'll hear a special presentation on building your own rain garden from Waterbury resident **Jo Anna Heberger**. She'll discuss how rain gardens can help manage storm water runoff, provide habitat for wildlife, especially if native plants are used, and add beauty to your yard.

And we'll confirm selection of new members and officers on the Waterbury Neighborhood Association board of directors, including Melissa Stalvey for president and Dave Johnson, Tom McBride and Rex Batson for the board.

The Temple is located at 5101 Grand Avenue in Des Moines. For more information, contact Steve Miller at 255-9014.



Rain gardens on the agenda at the annual meeting.

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



It's Garden Cleanup Time!

**WNA Annual Meeting, Sunday, April 6:
See Inside for More Details**

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