

# WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association*



## *Hello Neighbors!*

This will be my first newsletter to you as your new Waterbury Neighborhood Association President. I am pleased to continue my involvement with WNA in this new role. I want to especially thank Steve Miller, immediate Past President, for all of his time and dedication to WNA. 2013-2014 was a great year for WNA! From planting over 100 trees ... to participating with our neighbor Cornerstone Credit Union in sponsoring the Waveland Jazz in July ... to another fun Oktoberfest.

I am looking forward to continuing all of the activities that are currently part of WNA. I am also excited for what the future has in store for Waterbury. In the

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Melissa Stalvey,  
WNA President*

## **Come On Down and Enjoy the 4th Annual Waterbury Oktoberfest**

Fall, family, friends, food, music and fun ... a great combination, and that's exactly what's on tap for the 4th Annual Waterbury Neighborhood Oktoberfest. Clear your calendars on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and join us on the Great Lawn behind Cornerstone Community Credit Union at Grand Ave and 61st Street. On tap:

- ◆ Music by Hedrick Shade, classic danceable rock
- ◆ Bounce house, pumpkin decorating, face painting and yard games for the kids
- ◆ Food and beverages available for purchase
- ◆ Complimentary beer, soda and water from WNA and Cornerstone



**Kids and pumpkins: must be time again for the Waterbury Neighborhood Oktoberfest!**

Bring a dessert to share and show off your culinary expertise. A blanket and/or lawn chairs might come in handy. If you don't walk or bike to the event, parking will be available in the Junior Achievement parking lot south of Grand across from 61st, and on some near-

by streets.

Oktoberfest is another great neighborhood event sponsored by the Waterbury Neighborhood Association and your friends at Cornerstone Community Credit Union. More information, contact Melissa Stalvey (515) 537-8246



## **Meet Bill!**

**Bill Pearson joins Tom McBride and Kyle and Cevriye Horn as new WNA Board members this year, ready to make a difference in our neighborhood.**

*<<< Read about Bill, page 6*

## WNA Bulletin Board & Community Calendar

### News Update from the Des Moines City Council



*By Christine Hensley, City Council*

Hard to believe how quickly this summer has gone. I would like to give you an update on several projects I have been working on for the past several months in Ward 3. By the way, Ward 3 covers all of downtown west of the river to University Ave. on the north, 63rd Street on the west and SW 9th on the east with a little bump-out at Principal Ball Park.

There is a great group of volunteers that have been working with me on the 42nd Street Beautification Project. This project was undertaken after the area was designated as a "Cultural District" about six years ago. The project will address traffic flow from the freeway to Crocker on 42nd Street with signal lights being installed at 42nd and Crocker, new lighting, signage, sidewalks and plantings. The leaders for the group include Susan Noland, Jennifer Sawyers and Robert Gernes. The total cost of the project is \$1.7 million and requires a private fundraising component which is well underway. We expect the actual construction of the project to begin in 2015/16.

Another project that is gaining significant momentum is the SW 9th Corridor Study. This project has a strong group of volunteers taking the lead. This is not a beautification project but one that is analyzing the traffic options, working to acquire nuisance properties along SW 9th and developing a program to provide financial assistance to commercial businesses looking to improve their buildings. SW 9th is a long corridor with housing as well as commercial properties offering a variety of challenges for us to deal with. We have been fortunate in receiving financial assistance from the County (thank you Supervisor Mauro) and continue to identify other funding options. This has been a two year process that is being condensed into one year with the

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### **President (continued from page 1)**

upcoming 2014-2015 year, WNA has numerous plans and ideas in the works:

- 1) The winter proved to be a harsh one for our gardens and new trees. Alice Peterson and Dave Johnson have been hard at work maintaining our beautiful gardens. We lost numerous roses, shrubs and grasses. We are assessing what was lost and what needs to be replaced. The gardens are an enormous asset to our community. Keep your eyes open for a "Big Waterbury Event" to help keep Waterbury and the gardens beautiful.
- 2) Our historic finials on our street signs will hopefully be installed this year! Tom McBride has been working directly with the city to help move this project along. Once we have a definitive prototype and timeframe, we will give everyone a preview in the newsletter.
- 3) Oktoberfest is already on the books! This will be our 4th annual Oktoberfest ~ be sure to mark Saturday, Oct. 4, on your calendars and get ready for some great mu-

*(Continued next page)*



sic, great snacks, activities for the kids and free beer (for those of you over 21 of course). We thank our neighbors at Cornerstone Credit Union for always helping us with this event and providing the use of their beautiful lawn.

This edition of the newsletter is full of great Waterbury information. In fact, there has been so much going on that we may need to save some for the next newsletter! You will find articles and photos of some of the events that have taken place this past spring and summer: the garden clean-up, the planting of annuals, the creek clean-up with the help of our neighbors at Walnut Creek Church, and an update on how our new trees are doing.

Jo Anna Hebberger (board member Dave Johnson's wife) has contributed an article on their rain garden. This is a great way to utilize native plants and conserve resources at the same time. Jo Anna presented this type of gardening at our Annual Meeting back in April and it was very highly received from those who attended the meeting.

We would be remiss if didn't at least mention something about our early summer friends – the cicadas. Especially since their population seemed to be the largest right here in Waterbury! Dave Johnson has all kinds of facts about these prehistoric insects that won't return again until the summer of 2031 ...

I look forward to seeing everyone around the neighborhood. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or concerns. Have a great fall!!

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

#### Newsletter Editor

✉ P.O. Box 12054

Des Moines, IA 50312

✉ Email: [news@WaterburyNeighbors.org](mailto: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.

Date	Time	Location
October 23	6 P.M.	5420 Harwood Drive
November 16	2 P.M.	701 56th Street
December 18	6 P.M.	5605 Waterbury Road

## Reading Volunteers Needed at Hanawalt

Help kids get excited about reading by volunteering as a reader at Hanawalt Elementary School. For more information, contact Dianna Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 242-8411. Note that all volunteers are required to fill out a volunteer application and complete a background check as required by the Des Moines Public School district.



## Garden & Grounds Roundup

### Neighbors, New Friends Turn Out for Spring Cleanup Projects

#### Volunteers Tackle Waterbury Creek

Several volunteers from the Walnut Creek Church — as part of their “Mission to the City” service day — spent a Saturday morning cleaning up garbage from the small creek that parallels the Waveland trail in Waterbury. In addition, they helped spread mulch around the trees on the oak savannah area by the trail at 56th Street and Pleasant Avenue.

Much of the trash was plastic bags, cups and other plastic, but also removed were an old suitcase, several yards of TV cable wire and parts to an old picnic table. The Waterbury Neighborhood Association expresses its deepest gratitude to the Walnut Creek Church volunteers for their help.



*Pictured (from left) are volunteers Darrin Meidema, Ryan Way, Ed Grotzinger, Mike Van Dusseldorp, and Amy Holechek, plus WNA board member Dave Johnson.*

#### Big Turnout for Garden Cleanup Makes Light Work

Members of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association and several volunteers turned out earlier this year to prep our common gardens for summer. First the grounds were raked and cleared of leaves and winter debris. Volunteers then returned a month later to plant the beautiful annuals you saw this summer.

Our garden locations include: 1) Polk and Ingersoll, 2) End caps on Polk, and 3) 56th Street and Waterbury Circle and the planter at 56th and I-235.

“It really makes the work easy when we have so many great volunteers,” said Alice Peterson, WNA Garden Chair. “And a special thanks to the young men that joined us from the juvenile court system, Timothy C., Leighton L., Christopher N., Frankie “Alex” O. and Jacob T. I think they really enjoyed lending a hand.”

#### Tough Winter Hard on Gardens, Young Trees



*Volunteers for our annual garden cleanup day at Polk and Ingersoll gather for goodies after all the work is done.*

The tough winter took its toll on several of the new trees planted by the Waterbury Neighborhood Association last fall, as well as various plants and flowers in the common gardens.

When asked about the impact of the weather on the city, City Arborist David Jahn noted that a line of cities from Omaha to Des Moines to Davenport suffered as well. “This past winter was the coldest in 35 years,” said Jahn, “and newly planted trees don’t have the reserves to pull through until established.” The good news is that many of the trees made it and will hopefully continue to grow and beautify the

*(Roundup continued next page)*



neighborhood. For those trees that made it, please remember to fill your green buckets and keep those trees well watered throughout the fall. For those trees that didn't make it, please consider replacing them with a new tree. For more species and permit information, contact Dave Johnson (515) 423-3810.

## Now, How About Those Cicadas?

Unless you never stepped outside during the month of June, you couldn't miss them. Yes, 2014 was an emergence year for several million 17-year periodical cicadas. This brood (designated as brood III by entomologists—people who study insects) occurs mainly in Iowa and last emerged in 1997, when Bill Clinton was president. Who was Iowa's governor in 1997? That would have been a certain Terry E. Branstad.

Periodical cicadas consist of several species in the genus *Magicicada*, and include both 17-year and 13-year species. Cicadas are sometimes called locusts, but are actually in an unrelated insect order. True locusts are closely related to grasshoppers. Several broods exist in most areas of eastern North America, with at least one brood emerging in most years some where in their range. Some locations even have overlapping broods.

Brood XXII, a 13-year brood, also appeared

in Mississippi and Louisiana.

These cicadas emerge from the soil in massive numbers, spend a few weeks mating and laying eggs, and then die.

The massive emergence is a method of

ensuring at least some of the individuals survive to mate, overwhelming the many predators that feast on them, including birds, fish and even house cats. It is the males who make the noise, using an organ called the

tymbal, and are hoping to attract females for mating. Once mating occurs, the females lay their eggs in slits they make in young twigs. This is the cause of the tip die-back (called "flagging") that you can observe on several deciduous trees in the area. Most trees can tolerate this damage with no long-term effect. After several weeks the eggs hatch and the nymphs drop to the ground, where they dig in and live for the next 17-year period. They will then emerge, molt one last time, leaving the old body shells behind, and look for mates to start the cycle over again.

It was quite a show while it lasted! Brood III will next emerge in our area in 2031. What will the world be like then? Will Terry Branstad still be governor?



*The cicada, public enemy number one this summer.*

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*Bill and son Jonah, out for a walk.*

## **Meet Bill Pearson, New WNA Board Member**

Bill Pearson, a new member of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association, is a Des Moines transplant who grew up in Lansing, Mich. He moved to Des Moines last November with his wife Sarah Hinchliff, two-year-old son Jonah, and golden retriever Bowery. The couple met at Michigan Law School, and after living in New York City and San Francisco, decided to settle in Des Moines to raise their children closer to family.

Bill works at the Iowa Attorney General's office as an Assistant Attorney General, litigating cases on behalf of the State of Iowa. He loves what he has seen of Des Moines so far and is impressed with the pride people here have in the city and their neighborhoods. He enjoys biking on Des Moines' many trails and walking the Waterbury neighborhood with his family.

## **Build Your Own Rain Garden**

***By Jo Anna Hebberger***

Since my presentation on rain gardens at the WNA Annual Meeting earlier this year, several neighbors have asked me for details on how to build their own rain garden. Here is information that might help you start planning now for Spring.

A rain garden is simply a depression that you create to slow rain water run-off from your property. It is not deep, it is not intended to hold rain water for extended periods of time. A rain garden should contain deep-rooted plants to enable the water to percolate through the soil. For Iowa, these should be native prairie plants which are very deep-rooted, some to 15 ft.

Rain gardens filter run-off from lawns, roofs, driveways, etc. Filtering this water through a rain-garden will help remove pollutants. Rain-gardens will also help prevent flooding and drainage problems. A half-acre lot receives over 400,000 gallons of water per year in rain and snow. A rain garden can keep some of this water on your property where it will have time to soak in rather than run off. This will also reduce the need for watering as more moisture will be held in the soil.

By planting your rain garden with native plants you will help to reintroduce native plants to Iowa. Iowa has lost 99.9 percent of its native prairies and savannas. Native plants are essential for the survival of butterflies, native birds, beneficial insects such as native pollinators and other native fauna that depend on insects for food. Once established, native plants will not need watering and should not be fertilized.

### **Now for the How-Tos**

A rain garden should be placed at least 10 ft. from a foundation and not over a septic system. Please DON'T start digging until you've contacted Iowa One Call first to mark underground utilities: 811 or (800) 292-8989.

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Next you will test to see if your soil is suitable for a rain garden by watching how quickly water will percolate. Dig a hole that measures about 10 to 12 inches across and deep. Fill the hole with water, let it drain, then refill. If it drains within 24 hours, then you have good percolation. Lay out the shape of your rain garden with a garden hose or rope. Dig along the upper edge of the layout and put that removed soil along the lower edge to form a berm. Know where the rain water will enter the rain garden and plan for an overflow area at the far end of the rain garden. The overflow should be a couple of inches lower than the berm, but higher than the intake. Be sure the bottom of the rain garden, where the water collects, is level.

There are several publications that give detailed directions for creating a rain garden. A good one put out by the University of Wisconsin Extension is available online at:

[www.learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/GWQ037.pdf](http://www.learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/GWQ037.pdf)

Native plants should be purchased from a reputable native plant vendor. Native plants should not be sourced more than a couple of hundred miles away as native plants are adapted to geographic areas. There are some reliable native plant sources in our area. Blooming Prairie Nursery is located near Carlisle, Iowa, and can be contacted at: [bloomingprairienursery@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingprairienursery@gmail.com). Another good native plant source is Prairie Moon Nursery near Winona, Minn. They can be found at: [www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com). This nursery also puts out a catalogue that gives details about the plants, their water needs, their size, sun needs, flower color, etc. The catalogue is a great reference when trying to decide on plants for your rain garden or landscaping.

For more information, contact: me at [jhebbberger@yahoo.com](mailto:jhebbberger@yahoo.com).

## Update *(cont. from page 2)*

help of all of the citizen volunteers. We expect the final report to be presented to the City Council for approval in December 2014.

Lastly the City Manager search process continues. As you know, we held a number of public meetings with the finalist for the City Manager position. Unfortunately the candidate we were working with to extend an offer withdrew at the last minute. As a result, the City Council is re-assessing the process and how best to proceed. This is a critical decision for the City and I believe we need to proceed with care to ensure we make the right decision. The good news is we have very capable staff and department heads with the interim City Manager, Larry Hulse, currently running the day-to-day operations.

Finally for those of you that have questions or items you need my assistance with, please feel free to contact me via e-mail, [hensley.chrissteve@gmail.com](mailto:hensley.chrissteve@gmail.com) or my cell at 202-9677. As always, it is my pleasure to represent you. Enjoy a beautiful Waterbury fall.



*Jo Anna Hebbberger's rain garden in July.*

Waterbury Neighborhood Association  
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Des Moines, IA 50312



*Goodbye until 2031!*

**WNA Oktoberfest, Saturday, Oct. 4  
Save the Date: More Details Inside**

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