

## IN THIS ISSUE...

UPCOMING  
NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

FALL 2017 TREE GRANT

100 YEARS AGO

SUMMER 2017

# WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association*

## Help Complete the Waterbury Garden Revival!



The Waterbury Gardens at Polk Boulevard and Ingersoll Avenue are the emerald jewel of our neighborhood!

Yet, if you take a closer look, you will see that the garden is in trouble. Time, dry summers, and harsh winters have taken their toll. Thanks to our First Annual Gala for the Gardens, we raised close to \$6,000 and have begun Phase I of the Waterbury Garden Revival. Continued attention and investment are critical if we are to complete this restoration project and return the garden to its former glory.

That's why your Waterbury Neighborhood Association is hosting the 2nd Annual Gala for the Gardens - a celebration and fundraiser to protect and enhance our local treasure for this and future generations. Your participation is key.

Join your neighbors for an evening of tasty cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music, Waterbury themed merchandise, and some exciting finds at our silent auction. The festivities will be held at West End Salvage, on **Thursday, September 14th from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.** Buy tickets online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gala-for-the-gardens-tickets-34900812269>

Everyone in Waterbury has a treasure or two tucked away in the attic, right? We're looking for interesting artwork, sculpture, pottery, knickknacks, experiences, or other curiosities you'd like to donate to the Gala for the Gardens silent auction. For more information, and to make donations, call Melissa Stalvey at 515-491-4585.

## We can't wait to see you there!

### Thank you, Steve!

WNA would like to thank Steve Miller for his commitment to the Waterbury neighborhood. Steve has been a part of WNA for the past six years. During this time Steve has filled numerous roles that include general volunteer, Chair of the Waterbury Newsletter, and President. The service that Steve has provided to Waterbury has been invaluable, and as he leaves the Board, his presence will be sorely missed.

Steve moved to Des Moines from Minneapolis back in 2008... just in time for the Waterbury Secret Garden Tour! It was about that time that his journey with the Waterbury Neighborhood Association began. First as a "Gentleman Docent" for the garden tour and finally as President and general volunteer. During Steve's time as President, the Association thrived. Steve was an outgoing, inclusive, and charismatic leader for our group. During Steve's tenure WNA experienced record numbers of neighbors joining the Association and

attending our community-building events. Oktoberfest was inaugurated under Steve's watch, and has now become a standing tradition that the entire neighborhood enjoys celebrating each fall. Steve was also the guiding force that brought the Association into the 21st Century. WNA began a website, set up a Facebook page, and began sending members timely notices by mass e-mail. The Waterbury Neighborhood Association wouldn't be what it is today without Steve's vision and leadership. Thank you Steve!

## Waterbury Garden Restoration

The restoration and revitalization of the Waterbury Garden at Polk and Ingersoll has begun. With the assistance of Ted Lare Design/Build, plans were created to both beautify and simplify the garden in order to make easier to maintain. In May volunteers helped clear the existing space; three trailer loads of debris were removed. Next on the agenda, will be the planting Korean Spice Viburnums as a north border to the garden. Also, we hope to get a border of dwarf daylilies planted along the sidewalk yet this summer. One interesting addition will be the inclusion of landscaping boulders in the garden. Thanks to the generosity of John Bachman, 4922 Pleasant, boulders from his yard were recently moved to the garden by our own Bill Scherle. The plan is to transplant some of the existing vegetation in the fall to be augmented with new plantings next spring. Thanks to Jim and Bill.

Because of the cost and the scope of this project, it will take two years to complete. Funding has been provided from past neighborhood funding events including last year's Gala for the Gardens. Thanks to all who generously donated auction items or attended The Gala. Neighborhood support for this year's Gala will be crucial for the successful completion of this project. In addition, we are relying on volunteer support to keep our costs in line. Please keep these considerations in mind as we work to restore one of the gems of our neighborhood. And please excuse our mess as we move forward on this project!



## Summer 2017

Summer 2017 is now in full swing! Great things are happening in Waterbury as this summer edition of the WNA newsletter heads to print.

You may have noticed our Waterbury Garden at Polk Boulevard & Ingersoll Avenue is looking a "little rough around the edges". This is actually good news; it means we've begun Phase 1 of the restoration! The money raised from last year's 1st Annual Gala for the Gardens is allowing us to begin the Waterbury Garden Revival. Read further for specific information on the garden progress, as well as information on the 2nd Annual Gala for the Gardens to be held on Thursday, September 14th from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm at West End Architectural Salvage.

Your WNA Board is also undergoing its own revival. We have a number of new neighbors joining our group. Look ahead to learn more about our newest members: Martha Miller-Johnson, Bill Scherle, Matt Stagner and Emily Tripp. There is always room for additional neighbor volunteers and we would love to have you join us. Please contact Melissa Stalvey at 515-491-

4585 if you are interested (no previous experience required, just an interest in helping our neighborhood.)

We are also sad to see some long time WNA Board members and officers move on to other opportunities and endeavors. Steve Miller, Past President; Bill Pearson, Secretary; Dave Johnson, Garden Chair; and Kyle & Cevriye Horn, VP/Membership. Waterbury and WNA thank you for your time and dedication to our beautiful neighborhood.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer and be sure to mark your calendar with all of our upcoming Waterbury events!!

**Melissa Stalvey, President**



## New Board Members:

Matt Stagner (Website & Social Media) has lived on Grand Ave in Waterbury since 2010. Married his wife Molly in the backyard of their home in 2011, and have 3 Children: Finn will be a 4th grader at Hanawalt this fall, Rory age 4 and Willa age 2. Matt works for Voya Financial Advisors as an Advanced Planning Consultant and is a Certified Financial Planner. Matt is originally from the Kansas City area, graduated from the University of Missouri, and is an avid Chiefs fan and blogger.

Bill Scherle (Gardens) has lived in Des Moines since 1975. Bill is an attorney at Hansen, McClintock & Riley. Bill is originally from the Council Bluffs, graduated from the Texas A&M University, as well as Creighton University Law School. Bill is active in the community and has served as president of the Iowa Bar Association.

Emily Tripp (Membership) was raised in Des Moines and is a graduate of the University of Iowa. She grew up on Waterbury Circle and recently purchased her childhood home. Emily is a CPA and works for La Quercia as their Finance & Administration Lead. Emily and her husband have been married 16 years and have a 5 year old son will be attending Hanawalt in the fall.

Martha Miller-Johnson (at large) Martha Miller Johnson is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. She has lived in Waterbury for 15+ years and shares her house with her husband, David, and children, Wyatt and Caroline, who both attend Roosevelt High School.

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Melissa Stalvey,**  
*President, Fundraising chair*

**Martha Miller Johnson,**  
*at-large*

**Diane Becker,**  
*Treasurer, Luminary chair*

**Emily Tripp,**  
*Membership, Treasurer elect*

**Vacant,**  
*Secretary*

*If you are interested in any of the vacant positions, please contact Melissa Stalvey at 515-491-4585*

**Tom McBride,**  
*Garden co-chair*

**Bill Scherle,**  
*Garden co-chair*

**John Hallman,**  
*Newsletter chair*

**Matt Stagner,**  
*Media chair*

**Vacant,**  
*Social chair*

**Vacant,**  
*at-large*

SAVE THE DATE

# 8TH ANNUAL Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 4 pm - 7 pm

The 8th Annual Waterbury Neighborhood Oktoberfest will be held on the Great Lawn behind Cornerstone Community Credit Union on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Admission is free courtesy of your Waterbury Neighborhood Association (WNA).

**“MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR, WRITE IT ON A STICKY OR TIE A STRING ON YOUR THUMB... WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE SURE YOU DON’T MISS THIS YEAR’S OKTOBERFEST NEIGHBORHOOD CELEBRATION,” SAID MELISSA STALVEY, WNA PRESIDENT. “THIS IS OUR WAY OF BRINGING NEIGHBORS TOGETHER AND SAYING ‘THANK YOU’ FOR SUPPORTING THE ASSOCIATION.”**

## 2017 Gala

Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 7 pm - 9:30 pm

See article on page 2.



## National Night Out

August 1, 2017 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Please join us on Tuesday, August 1st from 5:00-7:00 pm at the intersection of Polk Boulevard & Ingersoll Avenue as the Waterbury Neighborhood Association celebrates National Night Out. Started in 1984, National Night Out is designed to increase awareness about community police programs and serves as a great opportunity to meet people from our neighborhood. Back by popular demand, “The Outside Scoop” ice cream truck will make a return appearance. Beginning at 5:00 pm, attendees will receive to a free scoop of ice cream courtesy of the WNA. In addition, the street will be closed and there will be games and sidewalk chalk for kids of all ages. Walk or bike down with the family.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 4 pm - 7 pm

See article to the right.

Once again this year, neighbors will enjoy live music and dancing, lots of fun activities for the kids, great food for sale from local food vendors and complimentary beer (an Oktoberfest must) along with soda and water. We’ll also have the neighborhood dessert tent up again, so bring something yummy to share (even if it isn’t German!) A blanket and/or lawn chairs might come in handy also as dining will be picnic style.

Oktoberfest is the perfect destination for a walk or bike ride as the event takes place at 62nd Street and Walnut Hill Drive, right next to the Walnut Creek Trail. Parking will be available in the Junior Achievement parking lot south of Grand and on some nearby streets.

More details will be posted closer to the event, so keep an eye on your email, on the Web at [www.waterburyneighbors.org](http://www.waterburyneighbors.org), or on the WNA Facebook page. The Oktoberfest Event Committee is also looking for volunteers to help plan and/or work during the event. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Andi Franks at 913-558-7412.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## Drake Relays

The Waterbury Neighborhood Association hosted a water stop again this year for the Drake Relays Half Marathon. Although there was no rain for this year's event, it was quite chilly Saturday, April 29th. There was a great turnout of 20 volunteers to distribute water to the hundreds of appreciative runners. This amazing team of Waterbury volunteers was up and filling water glasses at 7:30am on a chilly 48 degree morning. Despite the temperature a great time was had by all. Many thanks to all of our great volunteers!



## WNA Annual Meeting

The Waterbury Neighborhood Association's Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, April 9th at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. It was a gorgeous spring day and despite the nice weather, we still had over twenty attendees. Light snacks were provided. Tom McBride kicked off the meeting welcoming everyone. Mayor Frank Cownie gave an update on the City's PlanDSM and reported on a record year for development. PlanDSM is large project to write a new zoning code to support the City's plans and visions. Officer Yanira Scarlett gave a neighborhood safety update. Sarah Lohmeier gave a presentation on Friends of DSM Parks. This group supports our city parks and has projects such as swim lessons for low income children, Yoga in the Park, and free outdoor movies during the summer in parks across Des Moines. Josh Mandelbaum introduced himself as a candidate for City Council. Patrick Bryant from People for Pollination gave a presentation on the importance of pollinator gardens and provided seed samples and resources on where to get started and learn more. Finally, officer elections were held. A big thank you to everyone who attended!

## Garden Planting and Clean up

The Waterbury Neighborhood Association conducted its annual Spring Garden Clean Up event on Saturday, April 22nd. Volunteers met at Ingersoll and Polk Blvd to remove the winter's accumulated debris and prepare for the planting of annuals. Once again volunteer turnout was great allowing the work to be completed in a couple of hours.

Planting of the annual flowers occurred Saturday, May 27th. The City of Des Moines provides annuals to all the neighborhood associations. The WNA planted annuals along Polk Blvd and at the Waterbury Circle triangle. In addition to the planting the assembly of volunteers allowed for the execution of some significant tear out of old plants at the WNA Garden in preparation of Phase I of the garden rejuvenation. A big thank you to Dave Johnson in providing much needed watering assistance during the hot dry weather that we experienced in early June. Special thanks to Tim and Corinne Goode.

If you are interested in upcoming neighborhood volunteer opportunities, please check the WNA website or look for Sign-Up Genius emails from Melissa Stalvey.

## Fall 2017 Tree Grant

The Waterbury Neighborhood Association (WNA) intends to apply for a tree grant this fall through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. If our grant is approved, WNA will acquire the trees locally. The trees must be planted on public space. It is our preliminary plan to offer trees for both individual residences (to be planted in the public "parking" area – the space between the street and the sidewalk), as well as to plant select clusters of trees and shrubs along the bike trail.

WNA plans to coordinate the volunteers to plant and mulch the trees. The homeowner will simply be responsible for watering the new trees twice a week. If you are interested in having a tree or two planted at your residence, please send a note to: [news@waterburyneighbors.org](mailto:news@waterburyneighbors.org)

Within your note please include: **Your Name**

**Your Address** (which must be within WNA boundaries)

**The quantity of trees you wish**

**The type of tree you wish – see the list below**

The City of Des Moines has completed a tree inventory, and has determined that the following native Iowa species are underrepresented in our neighborhood:

**If the trees are located under a power line, your options are:**

1. Amur Maackia
2. Serviceberry
3. American Hornbeam
4. No preference

**If there are no overhead power lines:**

1. Shagbark Hickory
2. American Hophornbeam
3. Shingle Oak
4. Hybrid Elm
5. Tulip Tree
6. No preference

Please note that the WNA cannot guarantee that all respondents will receive a tree. There is a limited budget. Priority will be given to early responses.

## Early Waterbury Neighborhood

### Attractions

Prior to 1888 the Waterbury area was mostly farmland and timber. That began to change with the installation of trolley tracks. In 1888 the Rapid Transit Railway Company laid track from 17th Street to Polk Boulevard. Trolley transportation allowed easy access to the Waterbury area. Soon people would ride the trolley out to the country to three new attractions:

- Greenwood Park 1894-current.
- Des Moines Golf and Country Club 1897-1925
- Ingersoll Park 1901-1912.

### Greenwood Park

Greenwood Park was the first official large park in Des Moines purchased by park commissioners in 1894. It was acquired for approximately \$57,000. Greenwood Park was dedicated June 12, 1894. Johnson Bingham reported about dedication in his book; Des Moines the Pioneer of Municipal Progress and Reform of the Middle West:

The school children were out by the thousands—and their parents and friends with them. The May-pole, cycling races, games, drills, singing—everything was planned that could be thought of to please the children. It was a gigantic picnic. The parade to and through the grounds included hundreds of decorated carriages headed by the Des Moines Union Band, the German Turners, the United American Mechanics, one hundred bicycle—riders with decorated wheels, etc. ...[T]o the ten thousand people present, the wooded hills and lake were the chief attraction. Des Moines' first park was a splendid investment, as is attested daily by the throngs who visit it.

### Greenwood Park Timeline

- Early 1900's the park had a zoo with buffalo and elk. The zoo was located on the hill that presently has the wading pool and tennis courts.
- 1924 the land adjacent to Greenwood Park is donated by brothers James and Charles Ashworth.
- 1926 Ashworth Memorial Swimming Pool opens.
- 1931 the Sylvan Theatre is built for summer dramatic, musical, religious, and recreational programs.
- 1933 the Rose Garden is dedicated in honor of Izanna Chamberlin.
- 1948 the Eliel Saarinen designed Art Center opens.

### Des Moines Golf and Country Club

The Golf and Country Club of Des Moines was organized in October 1897. The first links were on a forty-acre tract near Polk Boulevard and Ingersoll Avenue. It extended north to Harwood Drive and stretched south down to Grand Avenue. The first clubhouse was reported to be a modest one story building at the northwest corner of Polk and Ingersoll.

By the turn of the century the club had begun to outgrow its location. The Gilchrist Lumber Company leased 100 acres to the club in 1903. In 1906 a spacious three story clubhouse (photo on next page) opened on southwest corner of 49th Street and Harwood Drive. The third floor offered guestrooms and a rooftop walkway. Locker rooms and a bowling alley were in the basement.

The new clubhouse and the splendid golf links resulted in a rapid increased membership from 17 in 1897 to about 240 in 1911. Activities at the club included; golf, tennis, archery, billiards, bowling, baseball, trap shooting, and cards.

The club's lease was set to expire so in June 1924 when the Country Club broke ground on a new clubhouse and golf course located in West Des Moines off of Ashworth Road. The Country Club moved to the new location in 1925. In June 1925 the land on which the club was built was divided into 228 lots in a new development called Country Club Knolls. Early advertising for the development stated:

**“IT MARKS THE TRANSFORMATION OF ONE OF DES MOINES’ MOST FAMOUS SHOWPLACES INTO A SPOT OF STILL GREATER BEAUTY AND REFINEMENT. IT MARKS THE ADVENT OF A NEWER, FINER, MORE MAGNIFICENT TYPE OF RESIDENCE SECTION IN IOWA AND THE MIDWEST.”**

Ingersoll Park

Ingersoll (amusement) Park opened in 1901. It was built and operated by the Des Moines Railway Company, whose trolley cars ran to the park. Judith Adams wrote in her book The American Amusement Park:

The companies that built the trolley lines were directly responsible for the establishment of the amusement park as an American institution... The street railway owners sought to increase riders during the slow weekends and evenings. The ingenious solution was to create a lure at the end of the line, a pleasure park for leisure enjoyment. Beginning as shady picnic groves often located near a body of water, the parks rapidly expanded with the addition of regular entertainments, mechanical amusements, dance halls, sports fields, boat rides, restaurants, and other resort facilities.

Ingersoll Park advertised itself as "The Playground of Iowa" and the "Greatest of all Amusement Parks". It offered a zoo, a roller coaster, a laughing gallery, a house of trouble, the cave of the winds, the smallest train in the world, a merry go round, a shooting gallery, the Ye Old Mill, many concessions, movies, and vaudeville performances.

Ingersoll Park was a great success for many years. In 1907 it was reported that over the sixteen week season more than 250,000 people would come to the park and that the Sunday crowd was 25,000 to 35,000. Trolley cars would arrive at the park as frequently as one every three minutes. One of the largest crowds accommodated at the park was on a Sunday afternoon when visiting elephants were given a bath in the park lake and 44,000 crowded in to watch.

The last season of the park was 1912. The closing coincided with the rise in the use of automobiles and the development of surrounding land into residences. In July 1912 owners of property in the Ingersoll Park area petitioned to have the roller coaster and merry-go-round removed due to the noise. The park was sold and by September 1912 the Iowa Land and Trust Company had platted the land for residential development.

**“Seeing Des Moines”**  
Visitors Can See Every Point of Interest in Des Moines by Taking the Trolley Cars.

<p><b>GREENWOOD PARK</b> Largest park in the city. Take Ingersoll Cars.</p> <p><b>ARMY POST</b> Where Regular Soldiers are stationed. Daily Drills. Take Fort Des Moines Cars.</p> <p><b>UNION PARK</b> Festive Park in the city. Take East Sixth and North Cars.</p>	<p><b>Ingersoll</b> “The Playground of Iowa” Greatest of all Amusement Parks. Big Free Shows, a Daily, Rain or Shine. Ye Old Mill, Roller Coaster, and twenty other concessions. Take Cars Marked Ingersoll.</p>	<p><b>WAVELAND PARK</b> Have an “Approved” Amusement, such as Ferris, Etc., etc. Take Waveland Park Cars.</p> <p><b>STATE HOUSE</b> Every visitor to the State Capitol make a short call at the Capitol. Take Capital and East Grand Street Cars.</p> <p><b>COLFAX</b> Altoona, Mitchellville and Valley Junction reached by the Trolley from Central Station.</p>
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Des Moines Golf and Country Club  
7/26/1912

Ingersoll Park

Greenwood Park



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

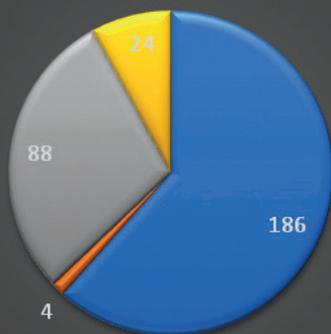
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PROOF

## WNA Membership Report - July 2017

The Waterbury neighborhood is made up of approximately 1,100 households. Currently approximately 27% of households are members of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association. We are up 27 memberships from past year and 46 of our memberships are new in 2017. Memberships levels are Single/Senior (\$25 annual), Family (\$30 annual), Sustaining (\$250 1 years), and Lifetime (\$500). You can find out more about the Waterbury Neighborhood Association and join or renew online at <http://waterburyneighbors.org/>. **Thanks to all who joined!**

### Membership Count by Type



Family Lifetime Single/Senior Sustain

### 2016 VS 2017



2016 Memberships

2017 Memberships



Waterbury Neighborhood

[waterburyneighbors.org](http://waterburyneighbors.org)



@WaterburyDSM