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WINTER 2017

WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association



Thank You!

The first annual Gala For The Gardens was held in downtown Des Moines on September 8th. The event, hosted at West End Architectural Salvage, was the inaugural fundraiser for Waterbury Gardens. Over 120 folks attended the evening event which included live music, and of course a silent auction. All neighbors enjoyed an evening of visiting, nibbling and while enjoying the music of The Downtowners.

We say \$5,500 in Melissa's message. Should be the same both references.

All who attended were treated to a rarity of actually having fun at a fundraiser. The great music, great food, and great people combined to make a night where every attendee had a smile on their face. It didn't hurt that attendees could explore each floor of West End Architectural Salvage while nibbling on a nosh or sipping a glass of wine. What a great venue!

Thanks to attendees, sponsors, and auction item donors, the WNA was able to net just under \$5,000 from the night to be utilized for the rejuvenation of the gardens. Efforts will begin this winter to secure bids, analyze costs, and divide the project into stages able to be completed over multiple years. Depending on the outcome of the bidding/planning process, phase 1 planting could begin as early as this spring.

The event was such a great success that there are plans to make it an annual event. We are tentatively identifying September 14, 2017 for the 2nd annual Gala For The Gardens. So mark your calendars and start combing through your house now to identify the next great silent auction treasures. Don't miss out on the fun!

The driving force behind the Gala was Melissa Stalvey, WNA board president. Melissa's vision and organization, not to mention a fair amount of elbow grease, was instrumental in making the Gala the great success that it was. In addition to the participation of the entire WNA Board, Melissa was aided by the incredible efforts of Melinda Berte, Amy Dagitz, Tierny Gerlach, Heather Puri, and Danielle Roecker.

Additionally, WNA would like to thank our great official Gala sponsors:



Check out photos from the Gala – and, if you wish - purchase your favorite images at: www.mccannphotoperfect.com
Click ENTER in the lower right corner. From the menu bar, select Private Galleries. When prompted, enter "Waterbury".

Happy New Year!

WNA hopes that you have had a great start to 2017. Although we have had some cold temperatures, there hasn't been much measureable snow this winter. Maybe an early end to winter? As we get into February, every week without snow is one week closer to spring.

As I look back, 2016 was another terrific year for WNA: fun activities, neighborhood improvements, and our first fundraising Gala. Get ready, 2017 is gearing up to be another great year!

Our annual Oktoberfest and National Night Out were very well attended, successful occasions. Look ahead in the newsletter for recaps of both events. The WNA Board always enjoys planning and sponsoring these happenings each year. They both provide an opportunity for neighbors to visit, kids to play in a casual setting, and everyone to enjoy Waterbury. Check the calendar for the dates in 2017.

Sentence cut off

2016 saw the completion of the Billy Goat Bridge. The bridge continues to be a way for neighbors to go between Waterbury Circle and North Waterbury Road. This past summer, the bridge also provided the perfect place for Hanawalt's Daisy Scouts. Check out the article accompanied by a photo from their special day.

The big event of 2016 was the Gala for the Gardens held at West End Architectural Salvage on September 8th. This first fundraising Gala was held to raise money to restore and improve the Waterbury Gardens. It was a terrific evening that raised over \$5,500 for the gardens. WNA is in the process of obtaining bids for the design of the gardens. Our goal is to complete the design and begin work this spring. We hope to display the progress at our next Gala.

Thanks so much to all of you who so generously supported WNA in 2016 by sponsoring the Gala, attending the Gala, and/ or renewing your membership. Be sure to join or renew your membership today. Waterbury wouldn't

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017...

Garden maintenance, National Night Out, Oktoberfest, and Luminaries will all take place again this year.



8TH ANNUAL
Oktoberfest

The planning of Gala for the Gardens 2017 is already underway. Mark your calendars for September 14, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at West End Architectural Salvage. Proceeds will continue to help fund the restoration of the Waterbury Gardens.



Thanks so much to all of you who so generously supported WNA in 2016 by sponsoring the Gala, attending the Gala, and/ or renewing your membership. Be sure to join or renew your membership today. Waterbury wouldn't

Wishing you and your family all the best in 2017.

Melissa Stalvey

Historical Calendars

The Des Moines Historical Society is currently selling 2017 calendars. Each month shows a building that existed in 1898. The calendars are \$10.00 and may be ordered on the Society's website at: www.desmoineshistoricalsociety.org

Storage Space Needed

Waterbury Neighborhood Association is in need of storage space, to store our growing inventory of records, signage, merchandise, and supplies. If you are interested in donating storage space, please contact the Association via our website: www.waterburyneighbors.org/contact/

Advertising in the WNA Newsletter

The WNA newsletter is a great way to reach the 1,100 homes within our neighborhood association boundaries. Our residents and members are passionate about supporting local business. If you are interested in placing a print or digital ad, please contact John Hallman at john.hallman@mchsi.com

Search for Board Members and Committee Chairs

The WNA is currently looking for new board members and committee chairs. If you care about the neighborhood and want to lend a hand, as well as have a lot of fun, please contact John Hallman at the address below. Our current openings offer the opportunity to focus on one specific event or to contribute on an ongoing basis. So whether you have a little free time or a lot, we would love to welcome you to the team. john.hallman@mchsi.com

Residential Tree Planting

As a MidAmerican Energy customer and homeowner, you can purchase high-quality landscape trees at discounted prices. These trees, ranging from 3 to 8 feet in height and selected by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, are offered for \$30 each during spring and fall Plant Some Shade events. The trees, which normally retail for \$65 or more, are sold on a preordered, first-come, first-served basis at locations throughout our Iowa service territory.

Questions?

Email: planttrees@midamerican.com or call 800-434-4017

Welcome to Our New Neighborhood Des Moines Police Contact

A big thank you to Sgt. Yanirra Scarlett of the Des Moines Police Department for attending our recent WNA Board Meeting and giving us an update on the public safety situation within our neighborhood. She is our newly designated Waterbury area neighborhood police contact. Sgt. Scarlett noted that our neighborhood was quite safe, but did stress that if residents see something, it should be reported immediately at the non-emergency number 515-283-4811. Neighbors should not assume that someone else will report suspicious activity. Emergencies should be reported to 911. If you see Sgt. Scarlett in the neighborhood, please say hello and let her know how much we appreciate her efforts. You can reach her directly at 515-971-2539 or yscarlett@dmgov.org

Common Area Tree Planting

A couple of our neighbors have undertaken the task of applying for a grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to plant trees on public or school land. In our neighborhood this would mean near the bike trail or at Merrill Middle School. A stipulation of the grant requires involvement of children. If you are interested in assisting, please contact John Hallman at john.hallman@mchsi.com

Too Much Waterbury?

Can there be such a thing as too much Waterbury? Apparently some folks thought so back in 1930. According to a Des Moines Tribune article from February 27, 1930 titled: "Street Name Change Urged." The article states:

"The elimination of the confusion which it is claimed arises out of a multiplicity of Waterbury roads was urged upon the city council Thursday. A petition signed by seventy-five residents of the vicinity of Fifty-sixth street and Waterbury road urging action was presented to the council.

The situation has been brought to the council a number of times in recent years. The petitioners claim that the duplication of street names causes endless confusion for firemen, messengers, visitors, and others, as well as the residents of the district.

The petition recommended that... Waterbury road signs be removed from the street two blocks south of Waterbury road proper...

A new name would then have to be selected for the ...thoroughfare, thus reducing the confusion resulting from North Waterbury road, South Waterbury road and Waterbury circle.

South Waterbury road residents will be given opportunity to make their suggestions before action is taken."

I guess this explains why we haven't seen any messengers in the neighborhood lately.

Thank you to Mary Andersen for submitting this article.



April 9, 2017
Annual Meeting | 2:00 p.m.

April 29, 2017
Drake Relays Half Marathon Water Station

April 22, 2017
Spring Garden Clean-up | 9 a.m. - noon

May 13, 2017
Spring planting and mulching | 9 a.m. - noon

August 1, 2017
National Night Out | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

September 14, 2017
Gala | 7 pm - 9 pm

October 14, 2017
Oktoberfest | 4 pm - 7 pm



One of the big ongoing projects for the association is the upkeep and maintenance of the gardens in our neighborhood. We are responsible for maintaining the primary garden at Polk & Ingersoll as well as the smaller bed at 56th & Waterbury Circle. Every year, we hold cleanups in the spring and fall to keep these areas looking their best. The help we receive from volunteers is critical to this endeavor and we would like to encourage residents to participate when we send out the sign up notification. It only requires 1-2 hours on a Saturday morning and makes such a big difference to the appearance of our neighborhood. The spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd at 9am. So be sure to check your emails. This year, we would like to do some serious work and replanting in the garden at 56th & Waterbury. **pull ampersand** help will definitely be appreciated.

The 2016 fall cleanup was held on Saturday November 12th and we had 12 volunteers plus family members. A special thanks go out to Alice Peterson, the Stalvey & family, Steve Balderson, the DeLancy family, Bill Nassif, the Dagitz family and Debra Kane. In addition to the usual leaf raking and trimming, several hundred new daffodil bulbs were planted in the Polk & Ingersoll garden. These bulbs were a gift from Bill & Joan Scherle and will greatly enhance the beauty of the area in the early spring. Earlier in the fall, Bill also donated a large number of hostas which were planted in the same area by volunteers Dave Johnson and Tom McBride, who also donated plants for this endeavor.

CJ Stephens Honored for Legacy of Contributions to Waterbury

Waterbury neighbors recently honored CJ Stephens as she prepared to leave Waterbury for her new home in Sanibel, Florida. Those of you who know CJ are very familiar with her contributions to the neighborhood and the city of Des Moines. Her passion and widely known ability to motivate (cajole) others to step up in support of a long, long list of neighborhood improvements, in particular protecting our beloved trees, will be sorely missed.

CJ was presented with an inscribed Waterbury street sign topper, most appropriate given that she spearheaded the effort to design and fund the 60-plus Waterbury signs that now grace our neighborhood. It reads:

"Thanks to your hard work, inspiration and leadership, the Waterbury neighborhood is the crown jewel of Des Moines. We, and future generations, owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude as is so aptly symbolized by this finial. Good luck and best wishes from all who served with you on the Waterbury Neighborhood Association and from all your Waterbury neighbors!"

CJ will be sorely missed.

FALL CLEAN UP

Luminaries

The Luminaries of Waterbury were beautiful once again on Christmas Eve 2016. There were almost 14,000 candles lighting up the Waterbury Neighborhood. Many years ago, Gladys Hertzberg created a supporting structure of dedicated team captains who work with their immediate neighbors, distributing candles and bags for Christmas Eve. We truly appreciate the work of the team captains — and all of our Waterbury neighbors that are rolling bag tops and scooping sand on Christmas Eve! Thank you to everyone and we are already looking forward to 2017!

Luminary Co-Chairs

Diane Becker

dianebecker25@icloud.com
515-619-9218

Alice Peterson

alicevp207@aol.com
515-255-2477



Our 2017 membership drive is officially underway, please join or renew your membership now!

Your WNA represents you on important issues that affect the quality of life in our neighborhood. Your membership dues fund our gardens, social events, our new & improved newsletter, and much, much more.

The financial support you provide helps keep Waterbury the neighborhood that we love to call home.

If you aren't a member of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association, or haven't yet renewed your membership for 2017, now is your chance. Go to www.waterburyneighbors.org and join or renew on-line.

We greatly appreciate your support. Every member makes a difference!!

If you were a WNA member in 2016, your support:

- Continued the care and maintenance of our beautiful gardens.
- Facilitated the completion of the Billy Goat Bridge with a fresh coat of paint.
- Organized 2 super fun neighborhood celebrations: National Night Out and our 7th Annual Oktoberfest.
- Maintained communication between WNA and the Des Moines Police Department about ongoing safety concerns.
- Encouraged discussion with the Des Moines Traffic Safety Division which resulted in improvements for pedestrians along 56th Street.
- Allowed WNA to continue our traditional Christmas Eve Luminaries.
- Helped WNA maintain our website:
www.Waterburyneighbors.org.
- And last, but definitely not least..... held an amazing "Gala for the Gardens" at West End Salvage! We all had a great time celebrating Waterbury and supporting the restoration of the Waterbury Gardens.

Daisy Troop 231 "Bridges" to Brownies

Another great use for the Billy Goat Bridge.



August 29, 2016 was a great day for Hanawalt's Daisy Troop 231. The sun was shining just after a big storm, and the girls were excited to start off the new school year as second grade Brownies.

The newly refurbished Billy Goat Bridge was the perfect spot for this special bridging ceremony, which included a personalized tribute and rainbow patch for each new Brownie. As each name was called, the scout would cross the bridge as a Daisy and wait on the other side as a Brownie. This continued until every scout had her turn.

The new Brownies, along with their leader Erica Abell-Holland, and their parents made their way back through the neighborhood for a celebration. Everyone enjoyed dinner, cake, and the first Friendship Circle as Brownies.

WNA is so pleased that these Scouts were able to utilize the Billy Goat Bridge. We hope that the bridge can be a part of future school and neighborhood traditions.

On Tuesday August 2nd, the Waterbury Neighborhood Association held its National Night Out celebration at the intersection of Polk Blvd and Ingersoll Avenue. Although the event wasn't as momentous as the previous year when the Waterbury street sign finials were dedicated, there was a large crowd nonetheless. 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. The crowd was a combination of

residents with deep roots in the neighborhood and young families that were new arrivals. While the adults conversed, the children were busy with sidewalk chalk, stacking blocks and the game of bags. The big draw again this year was the ice cream from "The Outside Scoop" food truck vendor.

We estimate that about 180 scoops of ice cream were served. It was a nice treat on a hot August evening! National Night Out is held on the first Tuesday in August so mark your calendars for August 1st 2017. We will see you then!



7TH ANNUAL Oktoberfest

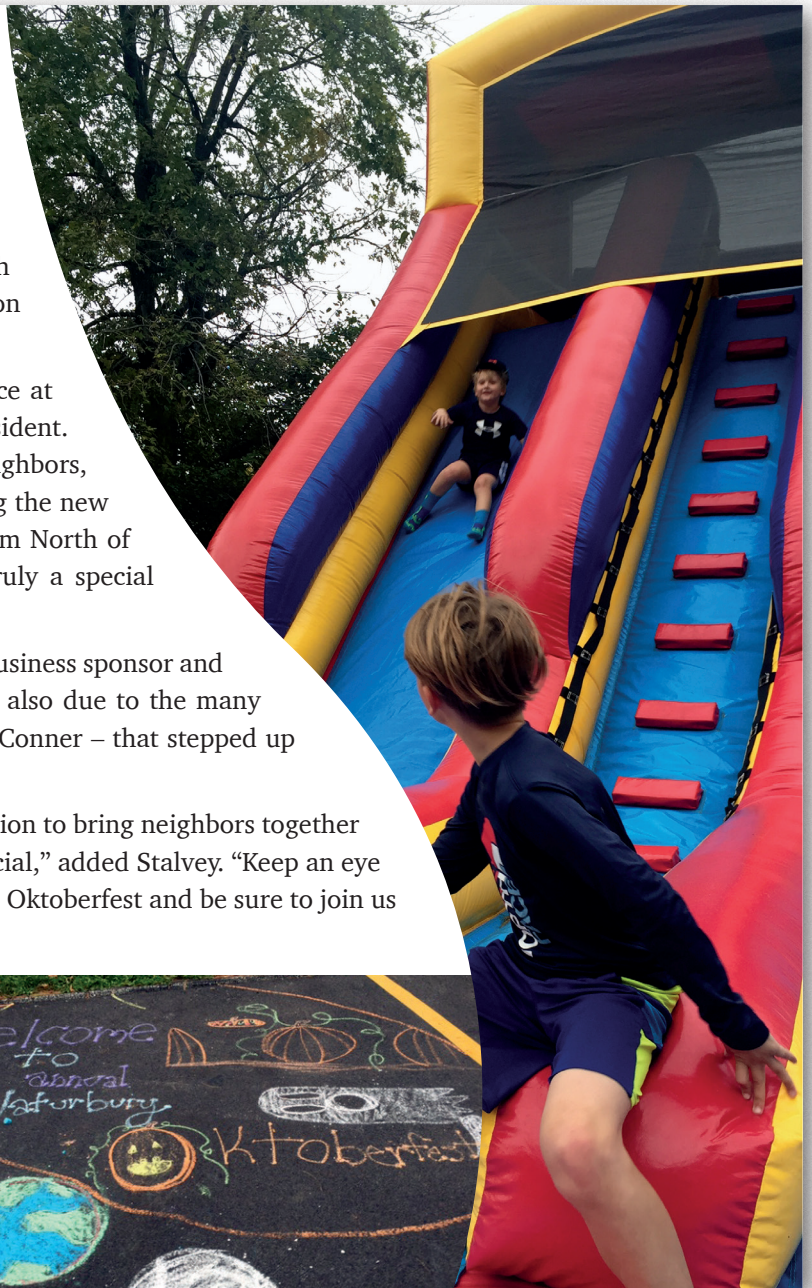
Threatening Weather Doesn't Dampen 7th Annual Oktoberfest Festivities

Despite dark clouds and a constant threat of rain, neighbors turned out in force for this year's seventh running of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association Oktoberfest.

"We couldn't have been more delighted with attendance at Oktoberfest this year," said Melissa Stalvey, WNA President. "Gloomy weather didn't stop more than 150 neighbors, including many families with lots of kids, from enjoying the new giant slide and lots of games and crafts, live music from North of Grand, and free Confluence beer and pizza. It was truly a special evening," she said.

Hats off to Cornerstone Community Credit Union, our business sponsor and host once again for this year's event. Huge thanks are also due to the many fantastic volunteers – led by Andi Sculfort and Katie O'Conner – that stepped up to make this annual event so special.

"This annual event is such an important part of our mission to bring neighbors together and build the relationships that make Waterbury so special," added Stalvey. "Keep an eye on future WNA announcements for the date of the 2017 Oktoberfest and be sure to join us for another great celebration."





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