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WINTER 2018

WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association

Waterbury Gardens to be Rejuvenated

*Rejuvenate (ri-jū-və-nāt),
v.t., to make vigorous again.*



As was reported in the last newsletter, the Waterbury Neighborhood Garden between Polk Blvd and 48th St is undergoing rejuvenation. Last winter, a new comprehensive plan was created to address the deterioration that has occurred over the past few years. The objectives of this plan are to add hardier plant material, simplify the design so there is less maintenance and to provide more color. Several areas of the plan have been left open as we hope to fill these spots with donated plants from members of the neighborhood. Also, we would like to repair the

gateway light, add a new structure to hide the electrical utility, and add berms to give the space some contour.

The first step of the master plan was taken this past summer as a number of neighborhood volunteers worked together to clear the area of dead, dying and overgrown plants. This was no small effort, as four trailer loads of brush were removed. In its place, the Board has planted 30 Viburnum shrubs and dozens of day lilies. Hydrangeas and redbuds have also been placed. Mulch was spread and weed control was applied. Boulders were donated by a Waterbury resident and added to the landscaped area.

2018 should witness the final phase of the rejuvenation. Thanks to the efforts and influence of Councilwoman Christine Hensley, the Association has secured a matching grant for the project from Polk County. This money will allow the Board to install a sprinkler system, add berms/structures and add several new varieties of perennials. A big thank you to Supervisors, Angela Connolly and John Mauro for their support, and to Lisa Moody-Tunks for helping with the logistics of the grant application.

This was a very challenging year for maintaining the garden. Hot weather and a prolonged drought made it necessary to water the annuals planted in the spring on a daily basis. Weed control is never easy and will remain a challenge with the new lay-out.

Our neighborhood is blessed with some of the finest private gardens in the city. The neighborhoods groomed lawns and flowerbeds are the envy of everyone who visits. We all are aware of the effort required to maintain our own property. The effort required to maintain the neighborhood garden is no less. To this point the Board has been able to personally answer the challenges posed by Mother Nature. However, if the rejuvenation plan is to succeed...if we are able to make the neighborhood garden vigorous again, it is going to take a pool of volunteers. We need your help. In the spring we will send out a call for volunteers for spring clean up, planting, spreading mulch and light landscaping. Please consider contributing a bit of your time. Students, scouts, and organizations that need service hours – have we got an opportunity for you!

If you would like to volunteer, simply check the appropriate box on your membership form and then watch your email for customized volunteer opportunities from one of our board members. We will also again utilize SignUpGenius for larger volunteer efforts. These SignUpGenius invitations will arrive in your email from John Hallman with the following email address news@waterburyneighbors.org. Volunteer events will also be posted on Facebook @waterburyneighbors and on Twitter @WaterburyDSM. Thanks again to the many volunteers that joined in the fun in 2017!

Winter 2018

Hello. My name is Martha Miller Johnson and I am the new president of the Waterbury Neighborhood Association. I've lived in our beautiful neighborhood for almost 20 years. I live at 525 Country Club Blvd. with my husband, David, and our children, Wyatt and Caroline.

If you have lived in the area since the 1980s, you may recall that it was our driveway where the plane crashed during a winter storm, killing several Iowa State University athletes. A telephone pole at the end of our driveway has been painted red and yellow to serve as a memorial.

My husband, David, works at Meredith Corp. and I am a Realtor for Coldwell Banker after a long career as a newspaper reporter and magazine editor. Our kids go to Roosevelt/Central. We also have two dogs named Belle and Tug, and a kitten named Theodore. Never a dull moment. Never.

In 2018, I ask that we all resolve to get to know our neighbors better. Join the WNA and get involved. We live among some amazing, caring, talented people. Come to WNA events and mingle or help us plant our wonderful gardens this Spring – or join in with a myriad of other volunteer opportunities. Come

to our annual meeting (see details on page 4). Got an idea for the neighborhood? Share it – and be prepared to help make it happen.

Our mature towering trees and green space make Waterbury stand out in the city. Did you know that Waterbury was one of the first neighborhoods in the state designed to follow the topography of the land? Here are some words that have often been used to describe our neighborhood: “historic,” “charming,” “family friendly,” “beautiful” and “neighbors.” You got that right.

Kind regards,

Martha

PS: A VERY BIG thank you to Melissa Stalvey for her generous time spent as president of the WNA. For years, she worked tirelessly for the neighborhood and will continue to be involved with the group. Thanks Melissa!



Martha Miller Johnson
President

Thanks Melissa!

After many years on the Waterbury Neighborhood Association Board we were all saddened at the departure of Melissa Stalvey board president. Melissa has served on the Board for six years in various roles including Vice President and President. It's fair to say that the rest of the board relied on Melissa for innumerable duties. Need someone to attend a civic meeting, call Melissa. Looking for the leftover cups from last year's annual meeting, call Melissa. Need a sponsor for Oktoberfest, call Melissa. You get the idea.



One of Melissa's biggest accomplishments in her long tenure was the establishment of the Gala for the Gardens. This event became the premiere fundraiser to replace and upgrade the plants at the WNA Gardens near Polk and Ingersoll. These upgrades will continue into 2018. So we will all continue to reap the benefits of Melissa's dedication and commitment for years to come.

Although Melissa has resigned from the presidency, she still continues to live in the Waterbury Neighborhood ...and who knows, we may be able to coax her back to help with fun projects from time to time in the future.

Melissa, we sincerely thank you for everything you have done for our neighborhood!

Tree Grant



The Waterbury Neighborhood Association received a grant this fall from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Trees were planted on public space at a number of residences around the neighborhood. The Trees For Kids grant was coordinated by our great volunteer Brian Button. Thanks to Brian and the neighborhood kids that helped plant the trees!



SAVE THE DATE

WNA Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 3 pm

The Waterbury Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18th at 3 pm at Plymouth Church in the Greenwood Room. Come to hear about plans for 2018 and to share your ideas for neighborhood improvements. Our mayor, city council members, county supervisors and neighborhood police liaison have been invited. We hope to see you at 4126 Ingersoll Avenue.

WNA Needs Your Ideas

At a recent board meeting one of our agenda items was to generate ideas for projects for the WNA to support in 2018. If you have an idea for a project or event that will benefit our neighborhood, we would love to hear about it. Our criteria are fairly simple; we are looking for ideas that improve the quality of life, build a stronger community, or increase public safety. Please email your ideas to John Hallman at john.hallman@mchsi.com Please list "WNA Ideas" in the subject line. If we choose your idea, you may be invited to a board meeting to discuss.



Annual Membership Drive

Hopefully you received our annual membership mailing at the beginning of the second week of January. If you misplaced the mailing, you're in luck as the membership form is also included within this newsletter. Yay! Become a member via snail mail or join online. Even if you can't support us financially please mail in the membership form indicating your interest in volunteer opportunities with the WNA. We greatly appreciate your support. Every membership makes a difference!

Drake Relays

Neighborhood Water Station

Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 7:30am

Once again the WNA will be hosting a water station for the Drake Relays. We need volunteers to distribute water to the runners. Kids of all ages are welcome. This is not a misprint: not only did the Relays get moved to the second to last weekend in April, but the half marathon will now be held on Sunday rather than Saturday. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for future communications regarding sign up. As always the first few signees will receive cool Relays swag!



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

On Tuesday August 1st the Waterbury Neighborhood Association held its National Night Out celebration at the intersection of Polk Blvd and Ingersoll Avenue. 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". The Association served around 200 scoops of ice cream to those in attendance. It was a nice treat on a typical hot August evening! National Night Out is held on the first Tuesday in August so mark your calendars for August 7, 2018. We will plan to see you then as we hope to have a dedication for the rejuvenated garden space.

Waterbury Luminaries

Waterbury is always a magical neighborhood on Christmas Eve when 14,000 luminaries are glowing. Thank you to everyone who participated and also a big thank you to the team captains for distributing all of the luminaries. We truly appreciate the work of the team captains and all of our Waterbury neighbors for are rolling bag tops and scooping sand on chilly Christmas Eve! Thanks also to our luminary co-chairmen: Alice Peterson and Diane Becker. If your street does not have luminaries, and you want to remedy that, please email Diane Becker with your questions. Please list "WNA Luminaries" in your subject line. dianebecker25@icloud.com

GALA — FOR THE — GARDENS

The 2nd Annual Gala for the Gardens was held on Thursday, September 14th at West End Architectural Salvage in downtown Des Moines. The event is the premiere annual fundraiser for the Waterbury Gardens located at the intersection of Polk Blvd and Ingersoll. (Please see accompanying story within this issue regarding the current status and future plans for the garden.)



Approximately 65 folks from the hood turned out on a gorgeous fall evening to mingle with friends and enjoy the musical stylings of the Downtowners. Delicious food and appetizers were provided by Palmer's Deli. Cocktails were provided by the delightful staff at West End. Board president Martha Miller Johnson kicked off the festivities by welcoming the crowd. Gardens co-chair Bill Scherle gave an update detailing the hard work that has been accomplished to date, as well as articulating the vision for the next phase of the effort.

The evening was a great success with approximately \$8,000 being raised for our beloved gardens. The funding came from a combination of ticket sales, silent auction, donations, a goodwill offering, and sponsorships.



Waterbury Neighborhood Association would like to thank our generous sponsors:

Platinum Level:

Steve Miller of Welland Laike Communications

Silver Level:

Stephanie Askloff and Martha LeBron Dykeman of Berkshire Hathaway Realtors

Bronze Level:

Cornerstone Community Credit Union

Des Moines Family Dentistry; Jenny Main

ADIO Chiropractic; Jeffrey Stickel

Bill Scherle

Dave Johnson

Diane Becker

Additional thanks to Melissa Stalvey, Diane Becker, West End Architectural Salvage and the incomparable Melinda Berte. Without Melinda's incredible efforts, the event would not have been the success that it was.

And finally a big thanks to all our WNA friends and neighbors who attended and made silent auction purchases. Your generous support will provide beautiful garden space for years to come.

Thank you!



waterburyneighbors.org



@waterburyneighbors



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Waterbury Neighborhood Association

2018 MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER FORM

Online Membership Option: To join or renew online, visit www.WaterburyNeighbors.org and click the "Membership" button to access our convenient online membership form.

First Name:

Last Name:

First Name:

Last Name:

City:

State:

Zip:

Address:

Email Address:

Email Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

- ☐ \$30 Family/Household
- ☐ \$25 Single/Senior Family
- ☐ \$250 Sustaining (10 years)
- ☐ \$500 Lifetime
- ☐ \$15 Non-Resident
- ☐ Please accept an additional gift of \$_____

Please send checks to:

Waterbury Neighborhood
Association/Foundation:
P.O. Box 12054
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Please make membership checks payable to the Waterbury Neighborhood Association. Membership is voluntary and is renewed on an annual basis. Foundation gifts are tax deductible; please make checks payable to the Waterbury Neighborhood Foundation.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

I am also interested in the following volunteer opportunities (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Trees (maintenance & reforestation)
- ☐ Newsletter/e-mails
- ☐ Gardens of Waterbury (maintenance)
- ☐ Luminaries
- ☐ Social Events
- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ Fundraising/WNA Improvements
- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ Media (web site, social media)

Des Moines Tribune April 22, 1930



THE COMMUNITY DID WIN THE AWARD THREE YEARS IN A ROW AND TODAY THE STONE MAY STILL BE SEEN AT THE INTERSECTION OF 56TH STREET AND WATERBURY CIRCLE. THE STONE HAD BEEN TIPPED OVER AND WENT UNNOTICED UNTIL IT WAS REDISCOVERED IN 1992 BY FORMER WATERBURY RESIDENT ELLEN HARVEY.

Waterbury Circle has been awarded the trophy for responding most fully in the "clean up, paint up" campaign of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Ray E. Harmon, secretary announced Tuesday.

This is the second consecutive year that community has won the award – a large rock. A community must win it three years in succession before it may keep it permanently.

Judges were Mrs. I.H. Tomlinson, collector of United States customs for the port of Des Moines, Mrs. Charles Pierce, president of the Des Moines Women's Club, and Mrs. J. S. Garlock, president of the Priscilla Club.

Seven communities were judged. Points considered were community spirit rather than money spent, conservation of property, effort and time.

Others entered were the Lincoln Heights Improvement League, Windsor Improvement League, University Place Improvement League, Linden Heights Neighborhood Club, Urbandale Booster Club, and the Birchwood Community.

According to Harman, the Waterbury Circle Community Club Inc. was responsible for the work done in that section. He said that if a vacant lot is not cared for in the district, members of the club turn out and clean it up as a community project.

"The judges reported that in no other section of Des Moines is there as much community spirit as in Waterbury Circle," he added.

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WATERBURY



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Great Cause, Great Neighborhood, Great Neighbors



An oak-tree sized thank you to everyone
with the Waterbury Neighborhood
Association, our fellow business
sponsors and all of you for working
so hard to make this neighborhood
a Des Moines gem.

YOU are Waterbury!

Steve Miller
President,
Welland Laike
Communication

Past President,
Waterbury Neighborhood
Association



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