



## IN THIS ISSUE...

🌀 WATERBURY 🌀  
SCAVENGER HUNT

🌀 SEMIANNUAL 🌀  
WATERBURY ART WALK  
FALL 2020

Cover image courtesy of Carski Studios

# WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association*

# FALL 2020 WATERBURY SCAVENGER HUNT

There's less to do around town this fall, but still lots to discover! Take this on your next few walks and enjoy some neighborhood sightseeing and nature.

Parents, your kids might enjoy drawing what they find in their own notebooks, or crossing the images off in the newsletter. *Images provided by WNA Board members and downloaded from Iowa State Extension's Nature Guides (extension.iastate.edu).*

## 1. Woodland Fairy Garden Door



## 2. Rose Garden Blossoms



## 3. Bird House in Greenwood Park Woods



## 4. Bur Oak Leaves and Acorn (Iowa's State Tree)



## 5. Pin Oak Leaves



## 6. Sycamore Fruit (A toddler favorite!).



## 7. Waterbury Garden Bricks



## 8. Waterbury Garden Blocks



## 9. Can you also find...

- 10 yard signs?
- 9 kinds of flowers?
- 8 pumpkins on front porches?
- 7 different colors of the rainbow?
- 6 kinds of birds?
- 5 butterflies?
- 4 tree swings?
- 3 black cars?
- 2 pollinator gardens?
- 1 house with solar panels?

## Go for the Gold!

We have all heard the saying "One bad apple spoils the whole barrel," and it could not be truer than when it comes to recycling.

Did you know that just one cart contaminated with a few wrong items sends the entire truckload to the landfill instead of the recycling plant? Ouch.

To encourage better recycling habits, the city of Des Moines recently started a Gold Level Recycling Program for super recyclers. You can earn a gold lid on your recycling cart if you properly recycle.

Here is how it works: First, you must recycle only allowed items. To learn what those are, go to [www.dsm.city](http://www.dsm.city) and click on Public Works. If you think you are an A+ recycler, request an audit.

Once your request is received, a city recycling crew will check the contents of your cart on your next recycling day and determine if you are worthy of a gold lid. If so, your blue lid will be replaced with the gold lid on your next recycle day.

Be a neighborhood recycling star and ask for an audit. Let's turn Waterbury gold.



**Martha  
Miller-Johnson  
President**

*Martha*



### City recycling tip:

Keep a paper grocery bag in the kitchen to catch all the recyclables. When it is full, dump the contents directly into the recycling cart and take the bag back into kitchen. Remember, all items in the cart need to be loose and not in any kind of bag, paper, or plastic.

Thanks to local artists Sarah and Mark Carson, of Carski Studios, for our cover image. Check out more of their work at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheCarskiShop>, or at this fall's Waterbury Art Walk!





## Plant Some Hope for Spring: Free Flower Bulbs from WNA

We've all missed seeing neighbors this year, and sadly had to cancel our annual social events. Since we can't gather and we're watching gardens grow more this year, we wanted to offer a reminder to the neighborhood of better times to come, in solidarity and friendship. Please stop by the Waterbury Gardens at Polk and Ingersoll on Saturday, October 10 (rain date of October 17th), 9am -1pm for a free WNA garden gift bag of daffodil or iris bulbs. Pick-up will be no-contact and socially distanced, while supplies last. We'll be thinking of you this Winter and are excited to see the neighborhood blossom next Spring.

If you're unable to stop by on Oct. 10, please contact our garden co-chair, Tom McBride, to arrange an alternate time (515-771-8248, thm3sticks@gmail.com).

## 2020 Luminaries

Would you like to join the hundreds of households that create a magical Christmas Eve with luminaries? The cost is \$15 for a kit of 36 candles and 36 white bags. Bags are placed 2 to 3 feet apart on the sidewalk or in your yard along the street. Kits are picked up and paid for in December. If you would like to participate for the first time, or if you have any questions, please contact us and we will add you to our list! If you have participated in the past, your team captain will contact you in November or December. Thanks to everyone that makes Waterbury beautiful on Christmas Eve! Socially distanced pick-up will be available, please talk to Block Captains for details.

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Alice Peterson

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## Classic Holiday Recipe

A holiday shopping trip and dining at the Downtown Younkers Tea Room was a tradition for Des Moines families for decades. If you're feeling nostalgic this year, you can re-create the classic Younkers Rarebit Burger sauce for the holidays at home.

## Tea Room Rarebit Sauce

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup cooking oil
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 cups whole or reduced-fat milk
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ teaspoon bottled hot pepper sauce (such as Tabasco)
- 1 cup shredded process sharp American cheese (4 ounces)



### DIRECTIONS

1. Place oil in a medium saucepan. Stir together flour, paprika, salt and dry mustard. Add flour mixture to oil; cook and stir for 1 minute.
2. Stir in milk all at once. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir 1 minute more.
3. Remove from heat; stir in Worcestershire sauce and hot pepper sauce. Add cheese and stir until melted. Makes 2 cups.
4. Cook 8 of your favorite burgers and serve on buttered, toasted buns. Spoon about ¼ cup of Rarebit Sauce over each bun.

Serve immediately.

Reprinted from  
*Holiday Celebrations with Recipes from Younkers* (2001),  
Meredith Books.

## HAPPENING IN WATERBURY

### Semiannual Waterbury Art Walk

October 10 & 11, 11 am - 5 pm

Waterbury Art Walk is a socially-distanced, open-air, walkable art fair, organized by artists living in the neighborhood. Artists Rachel Tone and Robert Schulte held the first event in July, in lieu of cancelled open-air Des Moines art shows, and are excited to continue this new neighborhood tradition in October. As Rachel explained, "We'll be welcoming a few new artists to the Art Walk. We hope as awareness grows, we can add as many artists to the Art Walk map as would like to participate." If you're a neighborhood artist who is ready to display and sell at this event, please contact Rachel Tone at [rachelatone@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelatone@yahoo.com).

Images to the right provided by exhibiting artists. For more information, including a Google map of participants and more pictures of the artists' work, check out the WNA Facebook page. Supporting our own neighborhood artists is as local as it gets!

#### Participating Artists and Exhibiting Addresses:

- 726 Polk Blvd: Robert Schulte, Jr., printmaker & painter; Rachel Tone, silver/ enamel jewelry artist; Rebecca Bashara, silver/ river stone jewelry artist
- 4815 Grand Ave: Garrison Beau Scott, photographer and resin cast/ paper toy artist "BayKidDead", and Alex Shiffer, painter and mixed media artist
- 636 Polk Blvd.: Jami Milne, visual artist photographer
- 525 Polk Blvd.: John Huffman, visual artist painter
- 4822 Harwood: Beth Pargulski, Harwood Press, letterpress art, cards, and stationery and Sarah and Mark Carson, Carski Studios, painting/ fine art illustration and giclee prints
- 719 52nd St.: Donna Scarfe, "Fyne Hats" milliner - historic/ contemporary/ steampunk hats, masks



### Local Events & Virtual Offerings

**The Des Moines Art Center** has reopened to the public, with safety precautions. Admission is free, though timed tickets must be reserved in advance. Virtual tours and virtual class options are also available. Please see <https://www.desmoinesartcenter.org/> for more details.

**Undesign the Redline** is an exhibit examining local histories of housing policies related to race and class, and is a collaboration between the Polk County Housing Trust Fund and social impact firm Design the WE. Currently located at Franklin Junior High, the gallery's Zoom lectures and tours are now available online at [www.undesigndsm.com](http://www.undesigndsm.com). The site offers a collection of historical maps, videos, and other resources about DSM's housing history relating to federal redlining in the 1930s, including Waterbury and other neighborhoods. You can also study the ongoing legacy of these discriminatory policies and learn about proposed policy solutions to mitigate damage for future generations.

**Woodland Cemetery Monument Restoration**, sponsored by Des Moines Parks and Rec. Thanks to a generous gift from donors and the community, the monument restoration project at Woodland Cemetery continues this fall. Named a historic landmark in 1986, the 69-acre cemetery has a rich and diverse history dating back to a donation from five farming families in 1848, and efforts are underway to protect and preserve the grave sites of those who are buried there. Volunteers are needed over the course of the project to straighten, secure and clean headstones. Volunteer shifts will be from 8:45 a.m. to noon and training will take place before each shift. Due to COVID-19, volunteer groups will be limited to 10 participants per shift and will work separate from each other unless they are from the same family.

**Shift dates:** Oct. 1, 2, 8, 9

To learn more or sign up, visit [bit.ly/2020WoodlandCemRestoration](http://bit.ly/2020WoodlandCemRestoration).



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



[@waterburyneighbors](https://www.facebook.com/waterburyneighbors)



[@WaterburyDSM](https://twitter.com/WaterburyDSM)



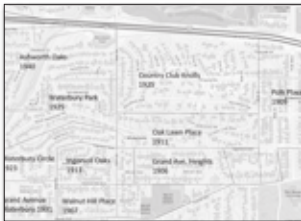
## Waterbury Neighborhood Development

Prior to the 1890s, the Waterbury neighborhood area was primarily farmland and timber. This began changing in 1887, when a trolley track was built by the Rapid Transit Railway Company. The track ran along Ingersoll Avenue from 17th Street to Polk Boulevard, with a depot and turnaround located between Ingersoll Avenue and Grand Avenue, just west of Polk Boulevard. The trolley opened access from the city to these "country" destinations in the neighborhood:

- Greenwood Park – opened in 1894
- Des Moines Golf and Country Club – opened in 1897
- Ingersoll (Amusement) Park – opened in 1901

The rural nature of the neighborhood started to change by about 1906, when residential development had pushed to all the way west to 45th Street. The Waterbury neighborhood was developed in three phases between 1906 and 1940. This article provides an overview of the timeline of the ten major legal plats that make up the Waterbury neighborhood. Future articles will look at some of the history of the major developments (Oak Lawn Place was already covered in a past newsletter).

The map below shows the neighborhood's ten major developments, which represent 84% of the single-family housing. There are many other smaller developments in the neighborhood that range in size from a single house to 17 houses.



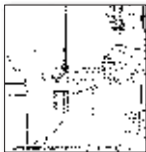
The table above right is information compiled from the Polk County Assessor's database of single-family homes in the Waterbury neighborhood and the approximate year the development was platted and lots were being sold. Currently, there are 57,518 single family residential homes in the city of Des Moines, with the Waterbury neighborhood accounting for 1.6% of the total.

Some noteworthy points related to the table:

- Between 1906 and 1913, 24% of the neighborhood development was started in five developments ranging from 35 to 59 homes.
- Between 1923 and 1925, 37% of the neighborhood development was started in Country Club Knolls, Waterbury Park, and Waterbury Circle.
- Starting in 1940, 16% of the final major neighborhood development took place in Ashworth Oaks.
- The Oaklawn Place development has the largest houses by square foot (74% larger than the rest of the neighborhood) and the largest lot size (139% larger than the rest of the neighborhood).
- Compared to all single-family residences in Des Moines, Waterbury neighborhood homes:
  - o Have an assessed value 121% greater than the average Des Moines home.
  - o Have a lot size 27% greater than the average Des Moines home.
  - o Have home square footage 74% greater than the average Des Moines home.

The series of maps below show the stages of neighborhood development. The first map is from 1907 and shows houses along Grand Avenue and then a few scattered houses. The second map shows new home construction in Polk Place, Oak Lawn Place, Grand Avenue Heights, Walnut Hill Place.





The majority of Des Moines residential neighborhoods are based upon a rectilinear grid street layouts.

The 1927 Des Moines Comprehensive Plan discusses the rectangular street system:

*The method of land surveying which is followed in this country induces the platting of*

*rectangular streets. The greater portion of the streets of Des Moines have been laid out in this manner, following the lines dictated by property boundaries rather than natural grades or requirements of circulation.*



In many cities the curvilinear grid development pattern began in the 1930s. The curvilinear grids often use cues from nature by following curves found along physical features such as bodies of water, wetlands, or steep slopes. As the Des Moines westside began suburban development many of developers of

the plats in the Waterbury Neighborhood were early adopters of

a curvilinear approach, perhaps in response to steep slopes and creeks.

Examples include:

- Oak Lawn Place (1911)
- Ingersoll Oaks (1913)
- Waterbury Circle (1923)
- Waterbury Park (1925)
- Country Club Knolls (1925)

Historian Barbara Beving Long writes about Des Moines development and the use of street layouts adapted to topography:

*In the years between the world wars, Des Moines experienced a housing boom of notable proportions, despite relatively low population growth. This residential development occurred in new suburban tracts and characterized the physical development of the Capital City. With the ascendancy of the automobile as the preferred form of transportation, new housing developments were no longer strongly linked to streetcar and interurban routes. Proximity to the central business district became less important, even less desirable, for workers could conveniently commute in their automobiles. Home dwellers sought out pleasingly designed suburban tracts and populated them with a variety of period revival housing styles.*

*Significant, distinctively designed neighborhoods illustrate the physical development of modern Des Moines. They shine as fine examples of well planned residential development of enduring value. These special places reflect the prosperity in the Capital City between the wars that allowed the creation of distinctive neighborhoods across the city. ...[E]njoy street lay-outs adapted to the topography, a mature and highly attractive tree canopy, and a palpable "sense of place" upon entering them. These plats are set apart visually from surrounding land use. Their sites were consciously and effectively designed to take advantage of the setting, which is generally rolling. All contain many Tudor Revival-influenced brick houses (then the prevalent style in Des Moines).*

*(Suburban Development in Des Moines between the World Wars, 1989, Four Mile Research Company)*

The next series of articles will review the history of the major developments.



## 2021 Membership Drive

Please watch your mailbox for our annual membership renewal, coming in January 2021!  
For membership information in the meantime, please visit us online at [waterburyneighbors.org](http://waterburyneighbors.org)



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



@waterburyneighbors



@WaterburyDSM





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

### **Are You New to Waterbury?**

If you are new to our lovely neighborhood, we wish you a hearty welcome! If you are looking to get involved in the neighborhood, we always have a need for the following volunteers:

- Advertising
- Assisting at Events
- Fund Raising
- Gardening
- Special Projects
- Web Content Generator
- Welcome Committee



If any of these options sound interesting, please send us a note at [news@waterburyneighbors.org](mailto:news@waterburyneighbors.org)

**Please be sure to check Waterbury's Facebook and other social media for the fall volunteering updates!**

**Be well, stay safe,  
and we hope to  
see you soon!**



Waterbury Neighborhood

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



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