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FALL2022

Cover image courtesy of Iowa State University

WATERBURY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Waterbury Neighborhood Association

WATERBURY GARDEN UPDATE



By Tom McBride, WNA Garden Committee Co-Chair

This past year was a busy one in the Waterbury Gardens. In April, we had our annual spring cleanup followed by plantings on the Polk Blvd endcaps and Ingersoll intersection in May. As with the previous year, hot dry conditions made it difficult to keep the flowers watered and looking nice. Our major project was the landscaping of the area behind the trellis on Ingersoll. Several years ago, the hillside was dug up to replace a sewer line and had become overgrown with weeds. Thanks to the vision of Jana Williams, owner of Wits End Gardens, we hope this area will look as beautiful as the picture illustrates.

Bill Scherle and I want to thank all the volunteers that stepped up to help with these various projects. And we want to give special thanks to Jack and Jennifer Hilmes for their watering assistance, Doug Massop for his help on special projects, Bill Nassif and neighbors for their work on the oak savannah, and Laura Peters for tending to the flowers at the monument on 56th. Great job everybody!



Des Moines Parks & Rec Programming

The Fall 2022/Winter 2023 Programming Guide is available online from Des Moines Parks & Recreation! Check it out for info on sports, nature programming, special events and more.

*Celebrate fall with neighbors at
Waterbury's Annual*

Oktoberfest

*Live Music, Food, & Beer
Pumpkin Decorating & Kids' Activities
Saturday, 10/15 • 4-6PM
61st & Grand, Vibrant Credit Union Lawn*





Monarch Tagging

Monarch tagging programs are a local part of a larger citizen science project that has been going on since 1992 to better understand the dynamics of the monarch's spectacular fall migration. Each year more than a quarter of a million tags are used by volunteers across North America who tag monarchs as they migrate on their way to Mexico.

Upcoming event in September:

Sept. 26, 4:00 p.m.
South Side Library

Luminaries

It's been wonderful to see so many holiday luminaries lighting up the neighborhood over the past several years. If you have participated in the past, your block captain will contact you in November or December. If you'd like to participate for the first time, or have any questions, please contact us. Thanks to all for making Waterbury especially beautiful on Christmas Eve!

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Anyone Can Get Involved to Help the Monarchs Thrive

By Nicole Shimp, Iowa State University Extension Office

This year the eastern population of monarch butterflies held steady, a 35% increase from last year, according to a report released in May by the World Wildlife Fund. However, we still have more work to do before the monarch population can be considered sustainable.

The monarch is currently under consideration for listing as a threatened or endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The FWS recommends continued implementation of voluntary conservation, with a decision on listing to come in 2024.

It's a common misconception that monarch habitat plots need to be big and in agricultural settings. However, roadway ditches, lawns, and landscapes can make ideal habitats if appropriately maintained.

Your garden can be as big as your entire background or as small as a single pot. Including milkweed and nectar plants in your garden is essential as milkweed is the only plant monarch butterflies lay their eggs on and caterpillars eat. In addition, adults need flower nectar from spring to fall. Check out the Blank Park Zoo's Plant.Grow.Fly program (see <https://www.blankparkzoo.com/conservation/plantgrowfly>) to learn more about installing habitat as a garden.

For a digital connection of pollinators, check out the HabiTally mobile phone app (available in the App Store or Google Play). It's designed to help citizens voluntarily record basic information about their habitat to support monarch recovery. The app allows people to record their efforts on plots of all sizes and community projects, including locations such as churches and parks. Users can also record whether they have seen monarchs in their habitat.

Even those who do not own land can still help the monarchs by using their voices and spreading the word about the importance of pollinators.

To learn more about the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium, visit iowamonarchs.info and follow @IowaMonarchs on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.



HAPPENING IN WATERBURY

National Night Out

It was wonderful to see so many neighbors at this year's National Night Out in August! This year, kids were treated to a chance to blast the horn on a fire engine (some did so very enthusiastically), and painted a big flock of lawn flamingos. Everyone enjoyed ice cream sandwiches from Thelma's, and a great set of music from James Biehn of the Central Iowa Music Lab.

Many thanks to our neighbors at Two Rivers Bank & Trust for sponsoring this year's event for our community, and to the DMPD and Fire Department for your community outreach!



2023 Waterbury Neighborhood Association Membership & Volunteer Form

Online Option: Join or renew at www.WaterburyNeighbors.org

Personal Information

First Name:	Last Name:	
First Name:	Last Name:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Email:		
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	

Please Select

- \$30 Family/Household Membership
- \$25 Single/Senior Family Membership
- \$250 Sustaining Membership (10 years)
- \$500 Lifetime Membership
- \$20 Non-Resident Membership
- Gift to the Foundation* of \$ _____

Please send checks to:

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

Please make membership checks payable to the Waterbury Neighborhood Association. Membership is voluntary and follows the calendar year.

*Foundation gifts are tax deductible; please make these checks payable to the Waterbury Neighborhood Foundation.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> One-time Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors (it's easy!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luminaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

If you haven't paid your 2022 dues yet, it's not too late!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY,
NOV. 12

6 to 9 p.m.

OLMSTED CENTER
 DRAKE UNIVERSITY

2875 UNIVERSITY AVE,
 DES MOINES, IA 50311

SILENT AUCTION AND
 ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED
 BY
 ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
 TRHSFOUNDATION.ORG / RPARTY

TO BECOME A TABLE SPONSOR,
 CONTACT CHRIS DIEBEL:
 CHRIS.DIEBEL@TRHSFOUNDATION.ORG
 OR 515-612-6599

Proceeds from R party will provide support to the TRHS Foundation, the TRHS activities department, as well as outreach funds for all TRHS feeder elementary and middle schools.

Ingersoll Oaks, Waterbury Circle, & Waterbury Park Development

This article provides an overview of the development of Ingersoll Oaks, Waterbury Circle, and Waterbury Park. These developments are three of the ten major legal plats that make up 84% of the single-family housing in the Waterbury Neighborhood. Past newsletters have reported on Polk Place, Oak Lawn Place, Country Club Knolls, and Grand Avenue Heights. Subsequent articles will cover the history of the remaining significant developments.

These three legal plats were all developed on land originally owned by Abraham Clegg, a Des Moines pioneer. Ingersoll Oaks was first developed in 1913, followed by Waterbury Circle and Waterbury Park a decade later.



The map at left shows the land ownership of the Ingersoll Oaks, Waterbury Circle, and Waterbury Park in 1885. At that time, the land was owned by Abraham Clegg. The Clegg farm is shown below between 8th Street in West Des Moines on the west and 56th Street on the east.



Abraham Clegg was born on November 28, 1824, in Lancashire, England. Clegg came from an English family which dated its ancestry back many generations. In 1846 he emigrated to the United States, settling in New Hampshire. He resided there until he came to Polk County in 1851. He married Miss Ann Nuttall, also a native of England, in September 1849. They had four children: Xerxes, Mollie, George, and Edward. Abraham Clegg died in December 1910.

In 1924 the Des Moines Register reported on his journey to Des Moines:

In the spring of 1851, while the snow was still on the ground, Richard Ashworth and his wife, May Nuttall Ashworth, left Waterville in Vermont for the great west. At Salem, N. H., they were joined by Richard Nuttall and his wife, parents of Mrs. Ashworth, Abram Clegg, a brother-in-law, and

his wife. Thomas, John, and Charles Nuttall (then single) brothers of Mrs. Ashworth. The party numbered fourteen in all. Among the children were James T. and Charles H. Ashworth, sons of Richard and Mary Ashworth. Before leaving New England, the leaders had procured a map of Iowa. Noting the Junction of the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers and being of the opinion that a city would someday be built at that point (river navigation was then the chief reliance for trade), they left home definitely bound for the Raccoon forks. They traveled by lake and canal almost exclusively, finally reaching Beardstown, Ill., in the early summer. The women and children were left there while Richard Ashworth, Charles Nuttall, and Abram Clegg went on afoot to the Raccoon forks. In the late summer of 1851, Abram Clegg went back for the women and children. In the meantime. Two linchpin wagons and two yoke of oxen were the means of transportation of the families to Iowa. They arrived Sept. 14, 1851.

The group crossed the Des Moines River on a ferry and continued five miles beyond the small settlement of Fort Des Moines. They reached the banks of Walnut Creek, near where 63rd Street is today. The first winter was spent in a double log house on the hill just west of Walnut Creek. This was near the present-day corner of 6th Street and Ashworth Road.

In 1856, the Ashworth family moved nearby to the west after Clegg and Ashworth purchased 550 acres. Clegg built a landmark two-story octagonal house at the location of the original log house. The eight-sided home had a copper roof, concrete walls one foot thick, and a basement ceiling 20 feet high. The home was torn down in 1936.



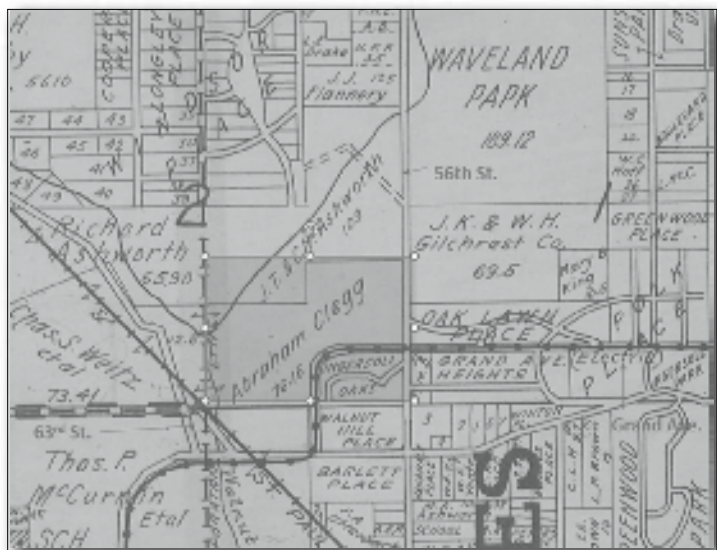
The Clegg land holdings had grown to 900 acres by 1880. It was reported in the 1903 publication Record of the Willamette Valley:

The Clegg farm was an ideal one, undulating prairies and gentle hills producing a landscape of exceeding beauty and harmony. Fine timber abounded by the acre, and when the plow turned up the rich, productive soil, fine harvests were unending.

Mr. Clegg made many trips to California and Oregon. After his wife died in 1892, his home was in Eldorado County, California, for many years. After Abraham Clegg died in 1910, the Clegg farm was developed into the residential neighborhoods of Clegg Park in West Des Moines, Ingersoll Oaks, Waterbury Circle, and Waterbury Park. With the naming of the Clegg Park Elementary School on Eighth Street, the Clegg name remains familiar.

The following map from 1918 shows the following developments:

- 1913, the Clegg estate sold part of the farm for the development of Ingersoll Oaks.
- As of 1918, no development west of 56th and north of Ingersoll had occurred.
- The Clegg estate sold the rest of the farm east of 63rd, west of 56th, and north of Ingersoll.
- 1923, lots and houses started to be sold for Waterbury Circle.
- 1925, lots began to be sold for Waterbury Park.
- The Ashworth farm directly north stayed undeveloped until the 1940s (Ashworth Oaks).



The Des Moines Register reported in March 1913 that the Des Moines Trust company purchased from the Clegg estate a tract of land at 56th Street and Ingersoll Avenue. This was known as the Ingersoll Oaks development. The Des Moines Trust was involved in many Des Moines residential developments. The president of the Trust was prominent Des Moines banker Albert Miller. The vice president of the trust was the Waterbury Neighborhood's namesake, F.C. Waterbury.

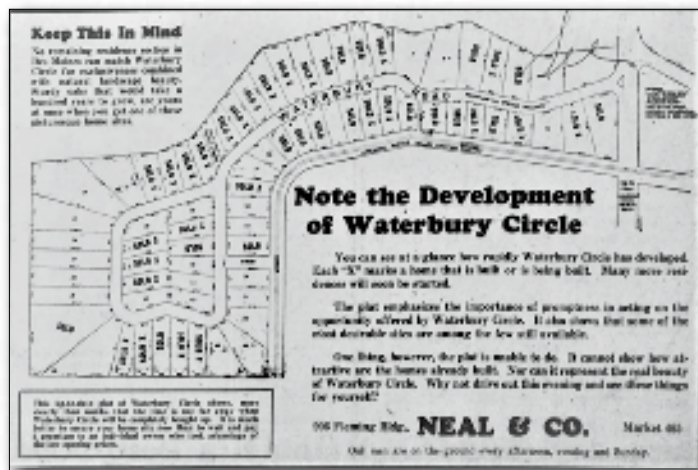
Ingersoll Oaks lots were first offered for sale in 1913. A 1913 Des Moines Register ad read:

Ingersoll Oaks is naturally beautiful and was skillfully laid out by expert landscape engineers. It is shaded by one of the finest-of oak groves and is an ideal location for your home. Many others have built in this delightfully wooded district, and there are very few opportunities left. The territory through which Ingersoll Avenue passes is enjoying wonderful development. Hundreds of fine homes have been built during the past two years, and some of the most expensive of these are under construction in the immediate vicinity of Ingersoll Oaks. Ingersoll Oaks has a great advantage as the car line, with "Owl Car" service, runs along the entire length on

Ingersoll Avenue and turning south runs along the entire west side on 59th Street. The new fire-proof Hanawalt School building is finished and is being used. It is sanitary and safe. This magnificent building is located on 56th street, two blocks south of Ingersoll Oaks, and is on a large, shaded tract that commands one of the very finest views in Iowa. Children may go to school from Ingersoll Oaks without crossing street car tracks. Ingersoll Oaks is a natural park of great beauty, and our aim has been to keep simple restrictions that will protect its advantages and prevent ill-advised and selfish development such as has disfigured many residence districts. Residences are to be built .at least forty feet back from the street lines and other buildings must be at the rear of the lots. Residences exclusive of other buildings are to cost at least \$2,500.00. Store buildings and flats are barred. Prices \$500 to \$1600.

Waterbury Circle lots began to be offered for sale in 1923. It was reported in a Des Moines Register ad:

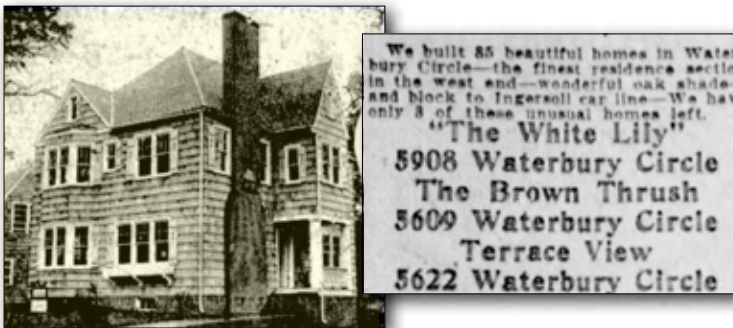
You Can Start Building Today! WHEN you get a residence site in Waterbury Circle, you have a lot on which you can start building at once. The pavement is laid and sewer, gas, water and electric connections are ready. This is just one of the many desirable features of Waterbury Circle. In Waterbury Circle, you don't buy just a lot. Instead, you get a fully developed home site, all ready for your house. In fact, every advantage that you expect in an ideal home site is to be found in Waterbury Circle. Being a continuation of Waterbury Road at 56th Street, it is both exclusive and convenient. It is only a block to the car and four blocks to the nearest school. Men who know real estate say that the low prices on Waterbury Circle home sites are nothing short of remarkable.



The Des Moines Register (December 10, 1922) discussed some of the distinctive characteristics of certain Waterbury Circle homes:

[O]ne builder of yesteryear added a subtle touch to his prestigious development. Many of the homes in the Waterbury Circle area of Des Moines have "pictures" worked into their brick chimneys. Most are on clapboard homes, but a few of the fancy chimneys are on brick houses. The most visible chimney designs are a clipper ship, a tall candle taper, a quarter moon and star, an owl, crossed swords and a tall pine tree. The most intricate, perhaps, is a big lighthouse, complete with a stone base embedded in the masonry. ... On at least two of the homes, where original shutters are in place, a bit of coordination still is visible.

The builder of these homes was Edwin Beck. He was a real-estate man for many years in Des Moines. His companies, Beck Real Estate and Fidelity Homes, purchased land, built spec houses, and marketed and sold the homes. Beck advertised the homes as "quality construction, distinctive arrangement, and artistic individuality." Below is a Beck 1926 marketing ad named some of the houses and a picture from the Des Moines Register (1925) of the 'Golden Ship' house.



Waterbury Park lots started to be marketed in 1925. It was reported in April 1925 that improvements to the high, rugged, naturally wooded Waterbury Park had been completed. This included sewer, water, gas curbing, and sidewalks. The thirty-five-acre development was opened on May 2, 1925. It was described in a Des Moines Register ad that:

WATERBURY PARK is the last natural wooded tract close to the Ingersoll car line in the desirable West End district yet these beautiful home sites are most reasonably priced, being no higher than lots in less attractive locations. High rolling ground wonderful shade trees winding walks and drives make home sites in WATERBURY PARK ideal. Here you can express YOURSELF in YOUR HOME. For every lot in this new development has natural features that will help to develop strongly just the style the exclusive characteristics the individuality you have always dreamed of in your real home of home. Minimum house cost restrictions are \$7,500 and \$10,000. The \$25,000 home of Ralph Elliott in the northeast corner of the park, at Fifty-seventh Street and Woodland Avenue, is nearing completion. There are seventy-five building lots in this addition, ranging in cost from \$33 to \$45 per front foot.

Below is a 1928 newspaper photo of the Elliott home:



J. Paul Neal was a real-estate developer and owner of Neal and Company, which marketed Waterbury Park. Neal sold primarily residential lots for owners to construct their own homes.

Waterbury Park was also the location of the Register and Tribune company model home (5829 Woodland). They called it 'home beautiful' and declared "it is being built to demonstrate to the citizens of Des Moines and Iowa the advantages of good materials, workmanship, and equipment." The Register reported that over 5000 people visited the house on Tuesday, March 29, 1927.



On March 30, 1927, the Register reported the house contained "wonders and novelties" that would have seemed foreign to the Iowa household of a decade ago (1917):

- Electric meter that can be read from outside the house.
- California or draft cooler (a pantry with an outside wall with a vent).
- Clothes chute with lattice bottom.
- Mailbox built into the wall.
- Package delivery box is built beside the back door.
- Mechanical garbage lid lifter.
- Lightning rods of a sort unfamiliar to grandfather.
- Disappearing ironing board that retires into the wall.
- Dome fume remover above the gas stove.
- Electrified ice box.
- Water softener.
- Gas dryer.
- Electric dishwasher.
- Automatic gas water heater.
- Screens that roll up and down like window shades.
- Finally, tiles everywhere like a Roman Villa.





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



National Night Out 2022

Thanks to new neighborhood business Willow on Grand for hosting our annual meeting in Spring 2022!



Please see www.willowongrand.com/events for upcoming local brunches and special events.



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



Waterbury Neighborhood

waterburyneighbors.org



@WaterburyDSM