



Merle Hay Neighborhood Association

"Working Together to Make a Difference"

P.O. Box 31036 Des Moines, IA 50310

Web: www.merlehay.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MerleHayNeighborhood

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April 2015 Newsletter

Meet the New Police Chief and Public Works Director at MHNA's April 16 Meeting

Des Moines Police Chief Dana Wingert and Public Works Director Jonathan Gano will speak at MHNA's next quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

Wingert is a 25-year veteran of the Des Moines Police Department. He was named as the city's new police chief in February, and succeeds former Chief Judy Bradshaw, who recently retired from the city.

Gano took the helm at Public Works early this year. He comes to Des Moines by way of Springfield, MO, and replaces former Public Works Director Pat Kozitza, who retired late last year.

MHNA's quarterly meeting on April 16 will also include plenty of other neighborhood news and updates. Refreshments will be provided.

Please invite your neighbors. We look forward to having great attendance on April 16!

Neighborhood SCRUB Day is Saturday, April 18

The annual Spring Cleanup to Prevent Urban Blight, or "SCRUB" for our neighborhood will be held from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, in the north parking lot at Hoover High School, 4800 Aurora Ave.

Complete SCRUB details and waste disposal requirements are listed on the Public Works website: <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks/Pages/SCRUBEvents.aspx> This is a great event every year, and donations accepted at our neighborhood SCRUB are a great fundraiser for MHNA. We will need volunteers.

Please send an email to jason.pulliam@gmail.com if you can volunteer for part or all of our SCRUB event on Saturday, April 18. The more volunteers, the merrier! SCRUB is a great way to get to know your neighbors.

Merle HayDay Set For June 13

Please join MHNA for its annual Merle HayDay celebration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, at Tower Park, 4900 Hickman Road! The gathering will be held in the open-air shelter located on the north side of the park.

MHNA will provide free hamburgers and hotdogs, as well as family-friendly games and entertainment. Please bring a side dish or a dessert. Tableware will be provided. You also may want to bring a bag chair or lawn chair.

Merle HayDay is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn more about our outstanding neighborhood. It's also a great way to find out how you can get more involved in making the Merle Hay neighborhood an even better place to live, work, and play.

We look forward to seeing you there on June 13. Please spread the word!

Support Malibu's Friendship Fountain at Riley Park

Merle Hay resident Tracy Struble has come up with a great plan to remember her beloved dog, Malibu, in a way that will benefit the entire neighborhood. Tracy is raising money to install "Malibu's Friendship Fountain" at Riley Park, 5300 Urbandale Ave.

Malibu loved going to Riley Park, where the outgoing black lab made many friends. Malibu's Friendship Fountain will make Riley Park an even better place for residents to visit with their furry friends by giving them a place to get a cold drink, and fill jugs and water bottles to take with them on a walk.

The pet fountain will be installed in Spring 2015, with a dedication and celebration to follow on Saturday, June 6 at Riley Park. If you'd like to help the cause, donations can be made any of the following ways:

- Send check payable to "Malibu Friendship Fountain" to 2917 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310.
- At any Community Choice Credit Union – "Malibu Friendship Fountain."
- Credit Card donations can be made by visiting GoFundMe.com/h3fd9c

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association thanks Tracy for leading this project! It's a great way to remember Malibu, and improve Riley Park!

Show Pride and Respect for Neighborhood Parks

It is a great time to get out and enjoy Tower Park and Riley Park now that warmer weather is here. Please help the Merle Hay Neighborhood keep an eye on the parks, and ensure they are safe and clean.

Most visitors respect our parks and those who live nearby. There are times, however, when park users are disruptive. If you see activity that warrants a police response, call 283-4811. Call 911 for emergencies. Park maintenance needs can be reported by calling 237-1386.

MHNA leaders are in frequent contact with officials from the Park and Recreation and Police departments. Please let us know if there is anything MHNA can do to help by sending an email to jason.pulliam@gmail.com.

Trust the Experts.

Ring the Bell
244-8911
bellbrothers.com



Merle Hay Neighborhood Association
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Des Moines, IA 50310

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Help Beautify the Merle Hay Neighborhood!

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Association always has volunteer opportunities for those who want to help our beautification committee. MHNA maintains flowerbeds at the following locations:

- Cummins Parkway and University Avenue.
- Urbandale Avenue and 57th Street.
- Urbandale Avenue and 49th Street.
- Tower Park, located at 50th Street and Merle Hay Road.
- Intersection of Merle Hay Road, Merklin Way, and Hickman Road.

Email kmbattles@msn.com or jason.pulliam@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer, or have ideas for new flowerbed locations. We can do as much as our volunteers support!

Order a Free Street Tree From Public Works

Des Moines' Public Works Department has a free-of-charge "Street Tree Program." Trees can be requested for planting in the public right-of-way by calling Public Works' 24-hour call center at 283-4950. Requests also may be filed online.

Complete program details are available on the webpage for Public Works' Forestry Division. The web address is: <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks/Pages/Forestry.aspx>

When you request a tree from the city, please let MHNA know. We would like to track street-tree plantings, and also recognize those who participate. A picture of you with your tree would be great! Please share!

With Emerald Ash Borer inching closer to Polk County, it's important for the Merle Hay neighborhood to do its part to keep our urban forest vital by planting as many new trees as possible on public and private property.

Stay Connected with MHNA

In addition to quarterly newsletters, MHNA connects with its members via email, social media, and periodic newspaper articles.

We try hard to use various methods to get the word out about all of the great things happening in the Merle Hay Neighborhood.

Want to join our email list? Send a note to: jason.pulliam@gmail.com. Other questions? Call Jason at 515.681.9689.

You also can "like" the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @MerleHay.

MHNA 2014 Events Calendar



Merle HayDay

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 13

Where: Tower Park, 4900 Hickman Road.

What: MHNA's annual neighborhood celebration! Free food, games, and family-friendly entertainment. Tableware will be provided. Please bring a side-dish or dessert, and a chair. A great opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn how you can get more involved!

MHNA Quarterly Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 16

Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

What: Join MHNA for its quarterly meeting in July. Guest speakers and other meeting details TBA.

National Night Out

When: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4

Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

What: Join MHNA for the annual National Night Out, America's night out against crime. There will be free food, games for kids, family friendly entertainment, door prizes, and great tips and information from public safety personnel about how to safeguard your property against crime.

Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade

When: Saturday, September 19. Time TBA.

Where: MHNA supporters will meet in the north parking lot of First Federated Church on 48th Street between Hickman Road and Franklin Avenue. Meeting time TBA.

What: Join MHNA for its annual entry in the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade. It's a great way to connect with the community and increase MHNA's visibility.

MHNA Quarterly Meeting and Annual Soup Supper

When: 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 15.

Where: Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

What: Join MHNA for its October quarterly meeting and annual soup supper. Guest speakers and other meeting details TBA.